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5 October 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2585

CONTENTS

ENERGY ECONOMICS

BARBADOS

- Power Company Showing Red Ink, Cash Problem for 1982
(THE NATION, 25 Aug 82)..... 1

GRENADA

- Electricity Service Gets EEC Loan for Improvements
(FREE WEST INDIAN, 11 Aug 82)..... 2

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

- New Texaco Production Cut Poses Threat to Economy
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 27 Aug 82)..... 4
- Unloaded Crates Hold Over 100 Needed TTEC Transformers
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 30 Aug 82)..... 5
- Government Prepared To Open Talks on Purchase of Tesoro
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Aug 82)..... 7

COUNTRY SECTION

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

- Caribbean Newsmen Urge Press Freedom in Guyana
(TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Aug 82)..... 9
- Jamaica's Shearer in Venezuela, Awarded High Honor
(THE DAILY GLEANER, 28 Aug 82)..... 11

Caribbean Labor Leader Raps IMF Policy's Impact on Wages (SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS, 29 Aug 82).....	12
Briefs	
New Banana Market	14
BARBADOS	
Adams Voices Confidence That Sugar Problem Is Resolved (Jewel Brathwaite; ADVOCATE-NEWS, 26 Aug 82).....	15
National Bank in Shake-up; DLP Holds Adams To Blame (SUNDAY SUN, 29 Aug 82, ADVOCATE-NEWS, 31, 30 Aug 82).....	17
Report of Resignation	
Adams Clarification	
DLP Charge	
DLP Annual Conference Criticizes Government Policies (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 30, 31 Aug 82, THE NATION, 31 Aug 82).....	19
Election of Officers	
Taitt Address	
Profile of Thompson	
Report on Resolutions	
Government-Union Impasse Continues; BWU Conference Held (Various sources, various dates).....	22
Union Cooperation	
BWU Absence at Meeting	
Minister's Message to BWU	
Walcott on Wage Formula	
CCL Official's Remarks	
Adams Reaction	
BWU Council Elections	
Withdrawal of Deadline	
Opposition DLP Scores Adams Government; Emergency Powers Bill (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 30 Aug 82).....	26
BERMUDA	
Union Splits Over Strike During Hotel Employers' Case (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 24, 30 Aug 82).....	27
Request for Legal Ruling	
Break in Union Ranks	

Government Unveils Housing Crisis Plan; UBP Hits Back at PLP (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 21, 27 Aug 82).....	30
Blast at PLP Criticism Two-Pronged Government Program	
Opposition PLP Factions Urge Changes in Party Rules (THE ROYAL GAZETTE, 26 Aug 82).....	33
Briefs 'GAZETTE' Case Ruling	34
BRAZIL	
Election Prospects, Possible Aftermath Discussed (Murilo Melo Filho; MANCHETE, 28 Aug 82).....	35
Foreign Debt Should Reach \$88 Billion by End of Year (Aloysio Biondi; FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 9 Aug 82).....	39
IBRE Document Cites Signs of Economic Recovery (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 24 Aug 82).....	43
Neto Refuses To Pledge There Will Not Be Maxi-Devaluation (CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, 17 Aug 82).....	45
Briefs Solar Energy Pact With Libya	47
CHILE	
'MENSAJE' Scores Military Regime's Goals, Policies (Jose Joaquín Brunner; MENSAJE, Sep 82).....	48
COLOMBIA	
M-19 Proposes Legalization, Dialog With Government (Jesus Maria Catano Espinosa; EL TIEMPO, 19 Aug 82).....	54
Idea of Nonaligned Movement Membership Criticized (Editorial; EL TIEMPO, 25 Aug 82).....	60
Professor's Killer Identified as 'ELN' Member (EL TIEMPO, 24 Aug 82).....	62
Briefs FARC Guerrillas Kill Three	64

GRENADA

Revised Investment Code Distributed for Public Comment (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 24 Aug 82).....	65
Progress in Economic Base of Carriacou Reviewed (Garvin Stuart; FREE WEST INDIAN, 31 Jul 82).....	66
Problems in Cocoa Rehabilitation Program Reported (FREE WEST INDIAN, 7 Aug 82).....	69
Briefs	
Cuban Airport Workers	71

GUYANA

PPP Statement Calls for Bipartisan Probe of Food Crisis (MIRROR, 29 Aug 82).....	72
'CHRONICLE' Reports on Jagan Questions to Parliament (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 28 Aug 82).....	74
Jagan Accuses PNC of Paving Way to Capitalism (MIRROR, 22 Aug 82).....	75
Burnham Remarks to Newspaper Workers Reported (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 2, 3 Sep 82).....	77
Analysis of Economic Needs Role of Media	
Joint Guyana-Libya Agricultural Company Records Progress (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 1 Sep 82).....	79
Canadian MP's Hold Talks With Local Officials (GUYANA CHRONICLE, 31 Aug 82).....	80
Rice Producers Offer Aid Proposals to Rice Board (MIRROR, 22 Aug 82).....	81
Life in Essequibo Described by 'MIRROR' as Grim (MIRROR, 22 Aug 82).....	83
Shortages Plague Consumers; Malnutrition on Rise (MIRROR, 22 Aug 82).....	84
Minister Disputes Jagan Charges; Rules Out Policy Changes (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 24 Aug 82).....	85
Briefs	
Arms From Brazil	86
Rice Board Irregularities	86

Ammunition Production	86
Message to Libya	87
Burnham Suit	87
Expanded Guystac Jurisdiction	87
JAMAICA	
Paper Supports Photo-Identity Cards for Clean Elections (Editorial; THE DAILY GLEANER, 27 Aug 82).....	88
Rural Bus Operators Charge Snafu, Get Import Licenses (THE DAILY GLEANER, 28 Aug 82).....	89
Seaga Sees Positive Economic Signs in Address to Bankers (THE DAILY GLEANER, 27 Aug 82).....	91
New Police Chief Interviewed on Weapons, Ganja (Joe Williams Interview; THE SUNDAY GLEANER, 29 Aug 82)...	94
Committee Established To Assess Banana Industry Needs (Ivorall Davis; THE DAILY GLEANER, 28 Aug 82).....	97
New Bill Strengthens Police Powers Against Crop Thefts (THE DAILY GLEANER, 25 Aug 82).....	99
Briefs	
Seizure of Travel Documents	101
ST KITTS-NEVIS	
Briefs	
Simmonds Warning	102
ST LUCIA	
Ambitious Plan Afoot To Revive Ailing Banana Industry (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 31 Aug 82).....	103
ST VINCENT	
Briefs	
Aid From Taiwan	104
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	
Local Groups Win Right To Monitor French Company's Work (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 27 Aug 82).....	105
Text of Chambers' Independence Day Address to Nation (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 31 Aug 82).....	107

Tobago Assemblymen Reply to Chambers' Olive Branch (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 2 Sep, 30 Aug 82).....	111
Robinson, Elder Differences PNM Tobago Meeting	
Government Urges Unions To Forgo Wage Hikes for Job Security (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 25 Aug 82).....	113
Editorial Castigates Unions for Irresponsibility on Wages (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 27 Aug 82).....	114
Union Complains to Police Commissioner of Harassment (ADVOCATE-NEWS, 26 Aug 82).....	116
Weekes Calls TTEC Trouble Deliberate Try To Blame Workers (Mikey Mahabir; TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 27 Aug 82).....	117
Minister Rules Out Possibility of Industrial Action at TTEC (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 2 Sep 82).....	118
Caroni Accused of Trying To Scale Down Sugar Industry (TRINIDAD GUARDIAN, 28 Aug 82).....	119
Paper Blasts Government Restrictions on Travel as Unfair (SUNDAY GUARDIAN, 29 Aug 82).....	120
Briefs New Venezuelan Envoy	122

POWER COMPANY SHOWING RED INK, CASH PROBLEM FOR 1982

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 25 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

A \$13-MILLION cash shortfall will be experienced by the Barbados Light and Power Company (BL&P) for this operating year.

This, according to a statement from BL&P managing-director, Frank McConney, is the picture of the company's financial position from an estimate prepared last July 28.

The financial statement, which McConney said was a simplified picture of the power company's fiscal position for 1982, shows that money collected from the sale of electricity for the year would total \$86.279 million.

However, cash required to be paid out during the year for normal expenses such as fuel purchases, supplies and wages, taxes and licence fees, repayment of loans and shareholders' dividends would be \$90.564 million, added to \$42.141 million which was the cost of this year's construction programme, would total \$132.705 million.

Subtracting the money collected for electricity and a \$33.2

million which was money borrowed to finance construction, from the total expenses left the figure of \$13.226 million, the cash shortfall.

The BL&P gave notice last week that it would be submitting at month-end a new application for a rate increase to the Public Utilities Board (PUB) following the turning down of its previous application last month.

McConney said that the simplified financial statement showed how difficult the company's cash problems would be in 1982 without the rate increase which was requested to take effect from April 1982.

As time passed, he said, it would become more difficult to make up the cash shortages and the problem would not get any

easier because the cost of operating and maintaining the system kept going up.

The power company manager said that the BL&P had definite commitments which could not be avoided nor postponed, for there was no way to postpone payments for fuel, to lenders, employees and suppliers.

He revealed that the company was now talking to the banks to try to get some limited extensions on credit, but they had expressed serious concern about the position of their existing loans.

A number of construction jobs also had to be cancelled to conserve cash and some line maintenance work now had to be done during working hours.

ACCORDING to the estimate of the financial statement of the Barbados Light and Power Company (BL&P) for 1982, which was released yesterday, \$86.279 million will be collected from the sale of electricity.

The other source of income for the year will be \$33.2 million in loans borrowed to finance this year's construction programme.

Cash required to be paid out during the year amounts to \$90.564 million.

This has been broken down into:

- (a) purchase of fuel — \$51.505 million;
- (b) to suppliers and employees for materials and labour required to operate and maintain the system — \$18.514 million.

(c) Government property taxes and licence fees — \$825 million.

(d) repayment of principal — \$5.334 million.

(e) payment of interest and commitment fees — \$11.855 million.

(f) shareholders' dividends — \$2.53 million — these amounts when totalled up being \$90.564 million.

The other major item of expense for the year is \$42.141 million for the ongoing construction programme.

Adding expenses and construction costs produces a figure of \$132.705 million, and subtracting from this the sale of electricity and the construction loan produces a cash shortfall for 1982 of \$13.226 million.

ELECTRICITY SERVICE GETS EEC LOAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 11 Aug 82 pp 1, 12

[Text] THE Grenada Electricity Services (Grenlec) will get two new 1.5 megawatts diesel generators and substantial improvements to its transmission and distribution system as a result of a \$6.2 million loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Economic Community's (EEC) bank for long-term finance.

The loan, repayable over 20 years at two per cent interest, also provides for a feasibility study on small hydroelectric schemes and the drawing up of an overall medium-term electricity development programme, including technical assistance.

Grenlec's manager Winston Bullen pointed out that the generators will arrive here in mid-1983 and should be operating by the end of that year.

Electrical consultants would be appointed to draw up details and specifications on the new

engines and determine the types best suited to Grenada. The consultants would then present their plans to a generator manufacturer for production.

Bullen disclosed that the generators will be coming from a West European country, but was unable to say which one.

An official of the Energy Unit in the Ministry of Planning said that consultant engineers, after doing a detail study of Grenlec's transmission and distribution system, are expected to make recommendations for new transmitters, upgrading existing generators and improvement and extension of existing lines and other relevant technical assistance.

The official said the EIB assistance will cover all Grenlec's present weaknesses, which it should remedy in two years' time.

Bro. Bullen revealed that Grenlec's power station in Queen's Park will be extended because of the assistance and it will provide services to villages that now lack electricity.

The EIB assistance would boost Grenlec's transmitting power considerably and eliminate the regular power cuts that consumers are now experiencing.

At the end of the feasibility studies, Grenlec can determine where the hydro-powered dams can be built and their capacity.

Bro. Bullen said that a feasibility study on a new power station, to be sited in the southern part of the islands, will also be done.

The loan agreement was signed last week Thursday in Luxembourg by Grenada's Ambassador to the EEC G.R. E. Bullen, who said it is very flexible and offered very attractive terms.

Grenada is the first of the Windward Islands to receive a direct EIB loan and Amb. Bullen pointed out that it reflects confidence in

the FRG's overall developmental thrust.

An improved electricity service, manager Bullen said, would conveniently facilitate the new international airport now being constructed in Point Salines and the construction of new factories.

He also announced that Grenlec is now fully owned by the Government and people of Grenada.

After successful negotiations with the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), the company's original owners, the FRG bought over its remaining shares. The settlement was reached in late June.

Of the CDC's five electricity companies in the Caribbean, the one here is the first to be locally owned. CDC now has companies in St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Dominica and Montserrat.

In May last year, the FRG passed legislation which enabled a portion of CDC shares to be transferred to the FRG after frequent power cuts and evidence that CDC bosses abroad were planning to sabotage equipment and cut-off electricity supplies.

NEW TEXACO PRODUCTION CUT POSES THREAT TO ECONOMY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Inc has further cut back its throughput of 50,000 barrels daily at its Pointe-a-Pierre refinery to an all-time low of 30,000 barrels. As the news spread around the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery yesterday, scores of workers expressed uncertainty as to their jobs and the economy of the country.

The cutback from Wednesday, is expected to have serious effects on supplies of aviation jet fuel (AV jet A1) to Piarco International Airport within the next few days if National Petroleum Marketing Company Ltd (NP) is unable to get supplies from the Pointe-a-Pierre bond.

It was reliably learnt that no aviation jet fuel left the bond over the past 48 hours. Local dealers of petrochemical products have been unable to get adequate supplies from Texaco.

It is understood that Texaco is manufacturing A-52 jet fuel which cannot be substituted for aviation jet fuel.

Average daily consumption of aviation fuel at Piarco International Airport is about 150,000 gallons. Texaco, the largest oil company in the country manufactures aviation fuel in accordance with international specifications. It could not be ascertained how much reserve stock is stored at Piarco or the Pointe-a-Pierre bond.

The refinery has a peak capacity of 355,000 barrels daily. Throughput went down systematically to 220,000 barrels then 110,000 barrels and then to 80,000 barrels over

the past weeks. Last Monday the cutback went to 50,000 barrels at which time the company said the drop was to facilitate work on the flares and steam system which would take about 12 days.

ADEQUATE

Officials of Texaco said the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery was operating with only No. 1 crude unit scheduled to run at 50,000 barrels per day.

"However, due to a short-term mechanical problem on the vacuum column, throughput has had to be reduced to 30,000 barrels per day."

According to Texaco, deliveries of aviation fuel to Piarco airport have been normal.

Trintoc has advised that there are adequate supplies of kerosene to meet local demand.

The National Petroleum Marketing Company (NP) has the responsibility to distribute petroleum products.

An NP source said: "There is no shortage of kerosene."

"There is no immediate threat of shortage of aviation fuel," the source added.

UNLOADED CRATES HOLD OVER 100 NEEDED TTEC TRANSFORMERS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

WHILE consumers are reeling under the effect of electricity outages, more than 100 transformers consigned to the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) are reportedly stacked in two containers with no idea when they would be offloaded.

And a senior official of the TTEC blamed this squarely on the refusal of workers to perform their duties.

The source made this disclosure while replying to criticisms against TTEC's management by the President General of the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), Mr. George Weekes.

OWTU and TTEC are locked in a dispute for a new three-year industrial agreement.

Yesterday, Mr. Weekes described the Commission's transformer accusation as a "fabrication."

At a public meeting in Fyzabad last Wednesday, Mr. Weekes accused the TTEC administration of deliberately creating a situation to blame the workers for what was happening with respect to the supply of power in the nation.

He charged that TTEC had a shortage of transformers and certain areas of Toco were without electricity because of this.

The TTEC source said yesterday:

"That charge was made during the conciliation meetings at the Ministry of Labour. And in the presence of the Labour Minister we

have denied that, and set the records straight.

"It is not true we don't have transformers.

NO OVERTIME

"There are two full containers with more than 100 transformers at our Arima compound waiting to be offloaded.

"The truth is that the workers say they cannot offload them during the day because it is too hot, and they cannot do it after normal working hours (in the evening) because they are not working overtime.

"So really the problem is that the union does not want the workers to offload the units."

The source added that for each day the containers remained at Arima, TTEC had to pay a rental charge of US \$25 (TT \$60) per container.

The containers arrived in the country on July 29.

Asked what disciplinary action could be taken against the workers for allegedly refusing to offload the units, the source said:

"I am afraid I cannot speak about that because it is tied up with the injunction against the union and the matter might be sub judice."

Contacted at his home in San Fernando yesterday morning, Mr. Weekes said:

"I doubt the truthfulness of that allegation. At our last conciliation meeting last week no mention was made of that."

Explaining that transformers could not be moved by bare hands and there should be mechanical equipment to do so, Mr. Weekes added:

We know that T&TEC made a request for transformers from San Fernando to be transferred to East Trinidad. What are they speaking about...

"transformers" locked up in containers?"

Mr. Weekes, whose residence is close to the union's headquarters was hit by a two-day blackout.

He said the union would be contesting the injunction and added: "Up to this

minute we have not received a copy of the document. It was not served on us. We had to go to the Industrial Court on Friday to read it to see what information is contained. "I don't know what is going on."

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Weekes telephoned the "Guardian" to say that he checked with the Arima TTEC plant.

He reported that he was told there was only one container at Arima, but he could not say what was in it.

CSO: 3025/462

GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO OPEN TALKS ON PURCHASE OF TESORO

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers has informed the Tesoro Petroleum Corporation of the United States that Government is prepared to begin talks towards buying out the company's shares in Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited.

The letter to the U.S. Company was sent by the Prime Minister on Thursday to Dr. Robert West Jr., Chairman of the Board. A reliable source explained that payment for purchase of the shares might not necessarily be in cash.

Earlier this month Tesoro offered to sell its 49.9 per cent shares in Trinidad Tesoro to the Government under the agreement made in the articles of Association, which provided that 30 days notice must be given of intent and price.

If agreement on price cannot be reached, the auditors of Trinidad Tesoro shall determine the fair market value.

Government's intention to negotiate on the price was announced in the House of Representatives yesterday by Senator Carlton Alert, Minister in the Ministry of Legal Affairs and acting Minister of State Enterprises.

He did not state whether Government was prepared to buy the shares, making the company fully State-owned, or whether after agreement on price, the shares would be offered to nationals.

REFUSAL RIGHTS

Government owns 50.1 per cent (controlling interests) in Trinidad Tesoro.

According to the agreement, in any offer to sell the shares, priority must be given to the Trinidad and

Tobago Government which has first refusal rights.

The US company's letter of August 11 offering to sell was addressed to four Government ministers and the reply, read out in Parliament yesterday, was signed by George M. Chambers, Minister of Finance and Planning.

The reply:

"Dr. Robert V. West, Jr., Chairman of the Board, Tesoro Petroleum Corporation, 8700 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78286, United States of America.

"Dear Sir, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (the Government) is in receipt of your letter dated August 11, 1982, to the Honourable Ministers, Senator Anthony Jacelon, Errol E. Mahabir, M.P. Patrick Manning, M.P., and Ronald J. Williams, M.P. On behalf of the Government, I now respond thereto.

"In response to Tesoro Petroleum Corporation's (Tesoro's) notice of intended transfer and offer for sale of all its "B" shares in Trinidad-Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited (Trinidad-Tesoro) and in keeping with the spirit and intent of Article 25 of the Articles of Association of Trinidad-Tesoro, the Government is ready and willing to commence negotiations with Tesoro with a view to fixing the price of the aforementioned shares.

"A Ministerial Team with such technical advisers as are considered appropriate, will act on the Government's behalf in this matter. That Team comprises the Honourable, the Minister of State Enterprises, the Honourable, the Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives, the Honourable, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and the Honourable, the Minister in the

Ministry of Finance and Planning.

"The Government, too, wishes to put on record that its representatives are prepared to discuss in good faith with the representatives of Tesoro."

Political and Government sources pointed out yesterday that it was a definite case of Government taking up the 49.9 per cent of Tesoro. Buying was a

foregone conclusion, it was stated. All that was left now was price decision.

It was explained that Government could well negotiate a price and then leave the actual purchase to nationals or national companies.

Among the possibilities was the buying of the shares by Trintoc a (State-owned company), nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, insurance companies, local banks

and organisations normally buying shares including trade unions in Trinidad and Tobago.

The source explained that Government must not have to put out any ready cash for the purchase of the shares.

Payment need not necessarily be in cash it was pointed out, but could be in supplies of products from Trinidad Tesoro.

CSO: 3025/462

CARIBBEAN NEWSMEN URGE PRESS FREEDOM IN GUYANA

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Aug 82 p 5

[Text] Kingston, Fri., (Cana):

The Caribbean Publishing and Broadcasting Association (CPBA) today called on Guyana's President Forbes Burnham, to publicly commit his Government "to allow the re-establishment of a free Press" in that country.

A statement here by CPBA president, Oliver Clarke, also urged Mr. Burnham to take action against one of his Vice Presidents, Desmond Hoyte, for calling Jesuit priest and editor of the CATHOLIC STANDARD "newspaper, Andrew Morrison, "a cassocked obscenity." [as published]

The CPBA groups the regions leading newspapers and electronic media organisations and has been vocal against Guyana and Grenada, where the media is largely State-owned, for alleged infringements of Press freedom.

Outburst

Mr. Clarke, in today's statement, said that the Guyana Government was continuing on its "apparently determined course to stamp out Press freedom and hence freedom of expression."

He charged that Vice Presidents Hoyte's remarks about Father Morrison were not only undignified, but appeared to be part of an organised programme of harassment "against the independent CATHOLIC STANDARD." [as published]

In any free democracy such a "vulgar and intemperate" outburst by Mr. Hoyte would have led to his removal from the government, the CPBA president said.

"If President Burnham fails to discipline the member of his government, such inaction can only be interpreted as an endorsement of this most unfortunate statement," he added.

Mr. Clarke said that the Catholic had put up a "valiant effort to ensure the Guyanese people have some access to a free flow of information" even in the face of government restrictions on newsprint and the murder of its photographer, Father Bernard Darke, in 1979 while covering a demonstration.

He added: "The Caribbean Publishing and Broadcasting Association calls upon President Burnham to immediately act in the matter publicly.

"The CPBA urges him also to make a public statement committing his government to allowing the reestablishment of a free Press in Guyana and remove the obstacles placed in the path of this free Press."

A failure to do this by the Guyana President would signal that it was time for other Caribbean heads of government to speak out in condemnation of President Burnham, the CPA president said. [as published]

CSO: 3025/463

JAMAICA'S SHEARER IN VENEZUELA, AWARDED HIGH HONOR

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Aug 82 p 9

[Text]

Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, who is on an official visit to Venezuela, was on Thursday invested with the Order of Francisco de Miranda, First Class, by the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Dr. Jose Zambrano Velasco.

Dr. Zambrano, in making the award on behalf of the Venezuelan Government, described Mr. Shearer as "a brilliant internationalist", who has worked actively "to overcome social and economic problems so that the people of the region can have a way of life that can strengthen democracy." Mr. Shearer had "worked for the rapprochement of peoples", he said, and the award was "a maximum expression of friendship between Venezuela and Jamaica".

In reply, the Deputy Prime Minister said he accepted the honour "with a sense of humility". It testified the strength of that relationship existing between Jamaica and Venezuela.

This strength, he said "is deeply rooted in similar historical experiences, shared principles and in joint participation in regional and international institutions".

Among these shared principles, Mr. Shearer noted, were "Non-Intervention in the affairs of other states, the sovereign equality of states, opposition to colonialism and racism and a commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes".

ZONE OF PEACE

Mr. Shearer said the two countries are "at one" in favouring the promotion of democracy and the institutionalisation of freedom within our region.

"We both agree", he continued, "that that Caribbean region should be a

zone of peace and tranquility, free from great power rivalries and intrusion. It is for these and other reasons that we are both perturbed by developments in the region which threaten to break out into open warfare."

The Jamaican Minister said that "if serious, effective development programmes are not implemented to correct the acute social and economic distress of the peoples of the area who are facing poverty, malnutrition and exploitation then their frustration and anger will inevitably explode into confrontation and conflict."

He said it was to Venezuela's credit that "the Government has recognized priorities lay" and made special reference to the San Jose agreement whereby Venezuela and Mexico, sell oil to countries in the region under special arrangements.

Both speakers referred to Simon Bolivar and to his

Jamaica Letter which Dr. Zambrano described as "a message of unity among Caribbean peoples".

The award given Mr. Shearer was named for a Venezuelan general and statesman who lived before Bolivar, and who is called The Precursor.

PRESIDENTS

Earlier Thursday the first day of a two-day visit, Mr. Shearer met the President of Venezuela, Dr. Luis Herrera Campins, who had invited the Jamaican Deputy Prime Minister to visit Venezuela.

Mr. Shearer was to meet two former Presidents of Venezuela, Dr. Rafael Caldera and Dr. Carlos Andres Perez, yesterday.

Before returning home yesterday afternoon, he was to visit the Jamaican Embassy in Caracas and attend a luncheon in his honour hosted by the Jamaican Ambassador, Mr. Reg Philips.

CARIBBEAN LABOR LEADER RAPS IMF POLICY'S IMPACT ON WAGES

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Government has been advised to avoid at all costs, implementing the policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and instead to effect structural adjustments by increasing productivity and output.

The suggestion has come from Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) Mr. Burns Bonadie who addressed the 41st annual conference of the Barbados Workers' Union yesterday.

His suggestion has come in the wake of an announcement last week that Government was seeking more than \$30 million from the IMF under the Fund's Compensatory Financing and Standby Credit Facilities.

Speaking on the topic "Wage restraint and IMF policy: The trade union response," Mr. Bonadie said that Caribbean economies were mixed and in most countries Government was the major employer.

This meant, Mr. Bonadie noted, that the capacity to provide employment tended to be closely related to Government's tax revenues and the ability to finance projects.

Furthermore the ability to tax is constrained by low incomes and providing that Government's income is low, so too will be its ability to create employment.

Relating this to the local situation, Bonadie said Government had indicated that too drastic a wage increase over and above that which is now being offered would force them to turn to the IMF for support.

He referred to a recent IMF policy statement which indicated that severe unemployment, social stress and strains, and increase in human misery were the results of measures prescribed by the fund.

The CCL official claimed that for the Fund to suggest that Governments must avoid taking popular political decisions was certainly laughable.

"At all costs Government must avoid these policies of the IMF. Government must try to effect structural adjustments by increasing output and productivity. This is directly related to the question of wages," he said.

"The Government would have to tell the IMF that there are certain conditions which it will not follow. The Government must have the freedom of action to regulate import flows thus regulating outflows of foreign exchange," he went on.

He said that Government must also try to control consumer credit for non-essentials.

Mr. Bonadie referred to the poor performance of the local economy and said it was perhaps in the area of local physical output in industry and agriculture that the best hope lies.

He said that one of the most rigid prescriptions of the Fund, and of some schools of thought among economists, is that in times of economic difficulties, pay increases for workers must be kept to a minimal level.

Bonadie noted as well that any survey employed to deal with economic difficulties would show that wage restraint when resorted to, has never had the desired effect.

"This medicine has been applied time and time again. Patients have reacted badly," he said.

CSO: 3025/468

BRIEF

NEW BANANA MARKET--Castries, Fri., (Cana): Windward Island banana producers have found a market in the United Kingdom for previously unaccepted Short-Finger Banana (SFB), and expect to net an extra \$2.5 million annually from exports of this fruit, it has been announced here. Scientist of the banana association, Winban, Colin Borton today said banana fingers less than seven inches were not accepted in the U.K. before, but Geest Industries, British buyers of Windward Islands fruit, had conducted marketing experiments, and as a result, the islands were now preparing to export 50 tons of the bananas. Borton stated that this was the minimum quantity allowed, and he urged all banana farmers to get involved. This development can be described as a major breakthrough for Windward bananas, as it will now enhance their reputation," the Winban scientist said. Mr. Borton said in the past the association had recommended that farmers remove the bottom hand on the small breed bunches, because nobody bought bananas with fingers so small. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Aug 82 p 5]

CSO: 3025/463

ADAMS VOICES CONFIDENCE THAT SUGAR PROBLEM IS RESOLVED

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Jewel Brathwaite]

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams has said that the differences within the local sugar industry which recently led to some 500 workers being sent home are virtually settled.

Mr. Adams said that a formula for the issue of a debenture for a support loan should be agreed on before the end of this month, and that he was confident of the agreement of a loan for capitalising the Sugar Factories Limited (SFL) overdraft at the Barbados National Bank.

He said also that this could also have the effect of releasing funds for the entire industry to enable it to prepare for next year's crop.

Mr. Adams' comments came yesterday following a meeting at Government Headquarters with representatives of the Sugar Producers Association and Sugar Factories Limited.

The meeting was also attended by officials of the BNB and the Central Bank who dealt with the problem of the lay-offs which came after the BNB refused to advance any more money to the industry.

The workers have since returned to work and among the new measures announced last week was that the BNB will make advances to the industry until the situation is regularised along with raising the money.

At yesterday's meeting the sugar industry officials suggested the setting up of a working relationship between the industry and BNB's Agricultural Division through the appointment of a committee as previously existed with the now defunct Sugar Industry Bank.

Mr. Adams said Government is quite receptive to the idea of the committee.

He pointed out that the Sugar Industry Bank was formerly managed by a statutory board.

It not only had representatives from the industry but members of Parliament who were appointed directly by the House of Assembly, and the legislature Council, and subsequently the Senate.

He said the committee worked well since the planters and the politicians had a knowledge of the countryside and other methods that were useful to other successive managers of the Sugar Industry Bank.

According to the Prime Minister: "Perhaps a little of this expertise has been lost with the abolition of the committee and I will be quite happy to investigate whether it is legally possible for the board of the BNB to appoint an agricultural loans sub committee that could make use of the expertise of members of the sugar industry."

Mr. Adams said he was not thinking of renewing the system under which members of Parliament or of either political party would sit on a sub-committee of the BNB deciding whether or not to lend money.

He added that the meeting had gone a long way toward establishing the kind of ideas that are needed in the future.

CSO: 3025/471

NATIONAL BANK IN SHAKE-UP; DLP HOLDS ADAMS TO BLAME

Report of Resignation

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 29 Aug 82 p 32

[Text] The complete board of the Barbados National Bank has resigned, and letters to this effect have been sent to Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Tom Adams.

Reliable sources indicated to the SUNDAY SUN that the board members handed in the letters "since sometime last week."

However, one member observed: "Until the resignations have been accepted" the board will function as usual.

This unprecedented step comes in the wake of a television interview with Adams a couple of Friday's ago when he criticised the management of the bank's Agricultural Division in relation to certain accounts connected with Barbados Sugar Factories Limited.

Board members have been reluctant to comment on the move made by Adams. However, the SUNDAY SUN has been told that some officials were satisfied that the bank's interest were sufficiently represented by persons adequately competent in matters concerning the sugar industry. [as published]

Members of the board are Chairman, Roy Blackett; deputy chairman, Oliver Browne, I Collymore, Rudolph Hinkson, Neville Osbourne, Collis Blackman, Sir Carlisle Burton, Dr. Bentley Storey, Mrs. A. Alleyne and Miss June Clarke.

Adams Clarification

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] Barbados' Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams has attacked the local press and opposition politicians for their handling of the problems facing the state-run Barbados National Bank (BNB).

Reacting to a report in another section of the Press, which said the entire Board of the financially-troubled BNB had resigned, Mr. Adams said: "Unfortunately the Press seizes on news and

presents it in such a way as to present a negative feature wherever possible especially if the Government could be dragged down."

Mr. Adams told an airport news conference before his

departure last Sunday night to attend the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting, now under way in London, that he had requested the board to put their resignations at his disposal to facilitate a restructuring of the financial institution.

The Prime Minister, announcing in Parliament last month that the BNB had incurred heavy losses during its four years of operation mainly as the result of money owed by the sugar industry, disclosed plans to reorganise the institution in which 10 per cent of the current staff would be retrenched.

A Government statement last Friday, in response to an

Opposition parliamentary Dr. Richie Haynes' claim that the bank had chalked up losses of \$15 million during its four year existence, put the figure at \$5.8 million.

"The mischief makers of the Opposition, as far as I am concerned, are no better and no worse than mischief makers of the Press. I wish that these things could be dealt with in a civilised way as both the Board and I have been endeavouring to deal with them," the Prime Minister told newsmen.

Mr. Adams said he had offered the Director of the Barbados Sugar Producers' Association (BSPA), Mr.

Neville Osbourne, the post of chairman of the Bank, but did not say if he had accepted it. The new board will begin functioning from Sept. 6.

Mr. Adams also said the services of some members of the old Board had been retained while the resignation of some others had been accepted, and there would be new faces on the new Board.

The BNB, with headquarters in James Street, currently runs seven commercial divisions across the island. It also has an Agricultural Division. (CANA)

DLP Charge

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] The Opposition Democratic Labour Party has stated that Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Tom Adams, must take the blame for the policy shortcomings of the Barbados National Bank, now in a state of financial collapse. "He it was who appointed the Board. He it was to whom the Board must report. His was the responsibility for the contribution necessary for effective policy direction," the

DLP said in its monthly newsletter "Horizons".

The Opposition party said that the BNB, which is to have a drastic cut in staff, was one of the few institutions to which the Barbados Labour Party Government can point as one of their own achievements during their six years of directing the affairs of this country.

"Born in relatively intellectual legitimacy, it was

given near unanimous acceptance by Barbadians eager to see some little evidence of the new ideas and bold initiatives which they had been promised in 1976."

"How sad to see the institution being savaged by no less than the Prime Minister himself. Nowhere else could a Minister have wreaked such havoc on an institution within his portfolio and live, politically to fight another day."

CSO: 3025/471

DLP ANNUAL CONFERENCE CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT POLICIES

Election of Officers

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Mr. Branford Taitt has been unanimously re-elected president of the Democratic Labour Party. Other officers elected at the DLP's Annual Conference yesterday were: Mr. Keith

Simmons, first vice president, Mr. Warwick Franklyn, second vice president and Mr. Maurice King, third vice president. Mr. Pedro Welch was elected general secretary,

succeeding Mrs. Cora Cumberbatch, who did not seek re-election.

Also elected to office was Mr. David Thompson. He is assistant secretary.

Mr. Frank DaSilva was the only nominee for treasurer.

Taitt Address

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Government's third attempt at legislating salaries for civil servants has met with sharp criticism by the Opposition Democratic Labour Party. And DLP President Mr. Brandford Taitt feels that the present impasse between Government and civil servants may run much deeper than a mere case of "dollars and cents".

Addressing the 27th Annual Conference of his party at the DLP Auditorium, George Street, Belleville, yesterday, Mr. Taitt noted that the legislation of salaries was one which the Barbados Labour Party said it would not countenance.

Quoting from the BLP Manifesto of six years ago, the DLP President said the governing party had declared that it was "unswervingly committed to the principle of

collective bargaining and will neither countenance nor be a party to any measure or act which undermines this process".

"Many civil servants, as we did, have read this. How must they feel when not once, not twice, but for a consistent third time, the Prime Minister and his Government would break this word. Surely it would be asking too much of the workers to accept with more than the greatest reserve any pronouncement by this Prime and his Party", Mr. Taitt told a packed auditorium.

He added that the reason for the lack of faith in the political integrity of the Government was probably best exemplified in a Hansard excerpt of a speech delivered in the House of Assembly by Prime Minister Tom Adams on June 22, 1976 when he was Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Adams was quoted then as saying, in response to the then Government's salaries

increase for workers in the public sector: "I do not know whether the Prime Minister is serious when he thinks that the bulk of the taxpayers can be mobilised to say that it is correct to impose solutions without making more serious efforts at collective bargaining".

According to the Hansard Report quoted by Mr. Taitt he had gone on to say: "I cannot accept that collective bargaining had come to an end and that there was such a ditch on both sides of which parties stood, neither willing to give an inch more or less".

Said Mr. Taitt in response to this: "Despondency must come when it is recognised that the civil servants and the rest of us have paid to this Government more than \$2 billion in taxes, levies, charges, and by whatever other name called".

Mr. Taitt said that where the Government saw the people merely as "means to

during the period 1978 to 1981 by the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) relating to the compilation and publication of the Register of Voters for election purposes resulted in many persons being unable to exercise their right to vote during the 1981 elections, the DLP's executive council should appoint a committee to examine the existing electoral laws.

The purpose of this would be to have such amendments made as would ensure that there are no impediments in the law nor any obstacles in its administration to stand in the way of the exercise of the constitutional right of every citizen to vote.

The third resolution related to an amendment to the party's constitution, repealing Rule 19 (2) and thereby officers to hold their respective offices for five year consecutive annual periods.

The fourth resolution also called for an amendment of the constitution to create the title of honorary life vice-president.

The next resolution called for an appropriate tribute to be paid honouring the memory of late DLP treasurer Harcourt Alphonso Miller who died last July 8.

Resolution six expressed the conference's appreciation of the party's parliamentarians for their performances in Parliamentary debate since the 1981 general elections.

The following resolution expressed the conference's dissatisfaction with the economic policies of Government and its failure to implement income-generating programmes.

It also called for the appointment of committees with specific terms of reference to consider specific social and economic problems affecting Barbados and to make recommendations for their solution.

Resolution eight declared that since the fiscal and monetary policies of Government have had disastrous effects on the economy of Barbados and on the living standards of Barbadians, the DLP should now commit itself to drastic reductions of all prevailing high rates of interest now fostered by the Central Bank's policy and also commit itself to the implementation of other policies designed to

restore confidence in the development of the island.

The next resolution pledged to restore the integrity of Government banking institutions and to re-establish one or more separate and functional institutions for making credit and other assistance available to agriculture.

Resolution 10 declared that the operations of the Barbados Defence Force constituted an unnecessary burden and threat to the taxpayers of Barbados.

It called on the conference to seek a public enquiry in to the establishment, methods of recruitment, organisational control, expenditure, armaments of all descriptions, training, agreements with foreign countries and all other matters pertaining to the operations, staffing and day-to-day administration of the Force with a view to its re-organisation.

Resolution 11 condemned the Government for its persistent failure to introduce a price control policy to ease the burden on Barbadians.

Resolution 12 also condemned the Government for its policy of reducing employment and for doing so in a manner contrary to good industrial practice.

The next resolution declared that since good industrial practice necessitated increased involvement of workers in the undertaking in which they were employed, the party should draw up proposals for making worker participation in industry a reality.

This resolution was followed by one noting the poor general condition of roads in Barbados and calling for a condemnation of Government for its failure to implement a national programme of road repair, maintenance, drainage and street lighting.

The increasingly high cost of motor insurance in Barbados was also noted, along with the difficulty which policy holders experience in having accident claims settled, and the next resolution called on the DLP's Executive Council to formulate a policy on insurance generally which will form part of the Party's Manifesto.

Resolution 16 said that there has been public disquiet over the allocation and use of funds in the Heywoods and Post Office

construction projects and the conference should therefore call upon Government to make full public disclosure of the details of the expenditure on these projects.

Resolution 17 noted that the cost of bottled gas was rapidly increasing and was higher to the householder than natural gas.

And, since the new highway near St. Barnabas was in a condition where gas mains can be laid at a lower cost than when construction of the road is completed and there are also several areas such as Pinelands, Wilday, North Friendship and Eden Lodge districts where natural gas service could be made available to householders, the conference should condemn the Government for its failure to develop and expand its natural gas service and to provide such service in areas where it could easily be made available.

The three remaining resolutions related to sanitation, day care centres and electricity rates.

For sanitation, the increase in the number of cases of leptospirosis in the island, a direct result of the poor collection and disposal of refuse islandwide which led to an increase in the rat population, it was resolved that Government and the Sanitation Service Authority be condemned for their failure to ensure that legislation governing the disposal of garbage was enforced to have dumping spots for garbage such as the Pine East West road opposite the Barbados Water Authority and the Ministry of Transport and Works workshop and similarly affected areas cleared of garbage.

On day care centres, Government's failure to provide adequate day care facilities for working mothers was deplored and Government was also condemned for its closure of the Warrens Polyclinic.

The final resolution called on Government to ensure that if the Public Utilities Board granted a rate increase to the Barbados Light and Power Company, the first payment of this increase should be converted into shares owned by the consumer.

an end" the situation soon developed into one where the Government and the people were distinct and opposite.

He added that if the situation should become drastically acute, the Government, threatened by reaction of a slowly awakening population, felt bound to resort to governmental machinery and methodology.

"Of such conditions are Emergency Powers Bill born," Mr. Taitt said.

He submitted that such legislation and other similar preparation were only symptoms of a more deep-seated fear of the people by the Government.

Mr. Taitt told DLP supporters that as the Government struggled more and more to find new ways and means for its own survival,

"an uncanny wave of cynicism descends upon the body politic."

"Lack of direction and absence of moral leadership become increasingly obvious. Institutions begin to crumble", he said.

Mr. Taitt said that perhaps the only question on which six years of BLP rule appeared to have achieved national consensus was the acknowledgement that something was not quite right with the direction of the nation's youth.

He was not convinced that Government understood the problems facing our youth.

And he said that to single them out for special condemnation was to seek to absolve oneself of any responsibility to be exemplary before them.

Mr. Taitt noted earlier that almost daily we see and hear

our worst fears on this question of our youth reflected in the newspaper or on television by some churchman, educator, journalist or politician.

He noted that two Ministers of Government, Mr. Victor Johnson and Dr. Richard Cheltenham, have in recent times publicly acknowledged the existence of the problem, which Mr. Taitt thought was "interesting".

The DLP President said that youth who have witnessed the erosion of the virtues of candour and truthfulness by their leaders; youth who have, in a short life, seen the "Golden Rule re-written in a way that now pits them against their fellowman".....cannot be said to have been offered, far less given, "a lamp unto their feet or a light unto their pathway".

Profile of Thompson

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Aug 82 p 6

[Text] Mr. David Thompson, 20, was elected as the new assistant General Secretary of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party on Sunday when the party held its annual general conference at the Auditorium, George Street, Belleville, St. Michael.

Thompson, who is also president of the Young Democrats, is the youngest person to take up duties as the party's assistant General Secretary.

He replaced Pedro Welch who has taken over the General Secretary's job from Ms. Cora Cumberbatch who did not seek re-election.

Thompson, an undergraduate in the Cave Hill campus Law Faculty also serves as a senior official in the St. James South constituency branch of the DLP.

Report on Resolutions

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 31 Aug 82 pp 10-11

[Text] THE Barbados Defence Force constitutes an unnecessary burden and threat to the taxpayers of Barbados and its operations should therefore be investigated.

This was one of 20 resolutions unanimously passed by delegates attending the 27th

annual general conference of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) last Sunday at party headquarters on George Street.

The first resolution dealt with the DLP's stand on Government's proposed new Emergency Powers Bill. It said the new legislation adversely affected the fundamental rights of Barbadians and called on the party to intensify its efforts to

force Government to withdraw it.

This resolution also directed the DLP to include in its Manifesto for the 1986 general elections the pledge made by party leader Errol Barrow to repeal the proposed legislation if it becomes law.

The second resolution declared that since the changes in the electoral law enacted

GOVERNMENT-UNION IMPASS CONTINUES; BWU CONFERENCE HELD

Union Cooperation

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 25 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Five of Barbados' Public Service trade unions have decided to set up a sub-committee to formulate a joint response to Government's final pay offer.

That decision was made yesterday following a meeting between the five unions held at the National Union of Public Workers headquarters, Dalkeith, St. Michael.

According to reports it was agreed that a member from each of the unions would be on the committee.

Those unions represented at yesterday's meeting were: The National Union of Public Workers, Barbados Union

of Teachers; Barbados Secondary Teachers Union; Police Association and the Firemen Association.

Those not present were the Barbados Workers' Union; the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners and the Prisons Officers Association.

However, according to the reports, it is hoped that these three unions will also be represented on the sub-committee which is scheduled to meet tomorrow. It has been stated that there were some difficulties in getting to those unions not at yesterday's meeting to have them participate.

The full group is scheduled to meet on Saturday again.

Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams has said that the

Bds\$25 million he had allocated for pay increases in the Public Service over this year and 1983 was all the Government could afford.

He said that if the unions did not accept that and preferred confrontation then that was what it would have to be.

Any further cash outflows on salaries, the Prime Minister said, would be catastrophic for Barbados and could lead as far as currency devaluation.

The unions, mostly those representing the 15 000 odd Public Service employees, have rejected Government's wage offer, stating that workers will be worse off under the proposed offer.

Government has offered the Public Service an across-the-board \$25 a week increase, or the equivalent of \$108 a month.

BWU Absence at Meeting

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 27 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Workers' Union has for a second time failed to attend the meeting of labour unions, representing civil servants in their stand against Government's final salaries offer. Yesterday's meeting took place at the headquarters of the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT).

According to a source, the three unions and two associations, which met on Tuesday at the Dalkeith headquarters of the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW), the NUPW, the BUT and the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union (BSTU), along with the Fire Service Association and the Police Association, were joined yesterday morning by the Prison Officers' Union.

The source also revealed that the groups had been in contact with the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners (BAMP).

and it was expected that when the next meeting came off at 10 a.m. tomorrow at NUPW headquarters, this body would be represented.

An official of the BWU told **THE NATION** that he did not know that there was a second meeting yesterday morning, and so could not say why the union was not represented. He said also that he was in no position to say if the BWU, which has also rejected Government's final \$25 across the board offer for civil servants, had received an invitation to the meeting.

Minister's Message to BWU

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Government has re-affirmed its support for the existence of strong trade unions and is looking forward to closer collaboration with the Barbados Workers' Union (BWU) in the quest for economic and social justice.

This is the message Labour Minister Vic Johnson sent to the union's 41st annual conference at the Labour College, Mangrove, St. Philip.

Mr Johnson was unable to attend the session and his message was read by BWU President Lemuel Daniel.

Johnson said the annual conference played a vital role in charting the union's policy.

He remarked there was no disputing the role which the BWU has played over more than 40 years, and believed that like him, members wished to see the progress maintained.

He said that the demands and realities of the 1980s will require different strategies than those which were relevant to the early decades of the union's existence, and

he was sure the BWU leadership was sensitive to the need for the new approaches and will guide the organisation along the appropriate path.

"I should like to re-affirm the Government's wholehearted support for the existence of strong trade unions and I look forward to closer collaboration with your union in the years ahead in achieving our common goal of economic and social justice for all," the message added.

Walcott on Wage Formula

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] The Barbados Workers Union (BWU) has offered a prescription for a settlement in the wages and salaries negotiations for higher pay for civil servants, which Government abruptly ended earlier this month.

BWU General Secretary Frank Walcott says that Government must be prepared to offer a further increase of not less than \$5 million next year along with the \$25 million which Prime Minister Tom Adams said was his administration's final offer.

Mr. Walcott outlined the proposal as he addressed the BWU's 41st annual conference at the union's Labour College, Mangrove, St. Philip.

The BWU chief office said that this unsettled issue had developed into a serious and dangerous issue.

"The union's proposal is not aimed at creating further financial difficulties for Government and the people of Barbados but to avoid going over a dangerous precipice," Mr. Walcott pointed out.

He stated that the country was undergoing serious financial problems and the union was expected to play the role of magician.

According to the General Secretary: "The economic squeeze that has fallen full, square on the shoulders of the workers can only be remedied by positive actions and that source must be the Government."

He added that Government had pleaded inability.

Mr. Walcott remarked that this was not special pleading by the BWU, but rather a realistic assessment of what is taking place in the economy.

He charged there was a growing tendency in some sections of public life here that machines and power were more important than men, but added that men were physical and spiritual, and that the time had come for brakes to be put to trend.

He paid tribute to Mr. Burns Bonadie, Secretary Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour. Mr. Bonadie along with Sir Hugh Springer were instrumental in the settlement of the sugar dispute earlier this year.

According to Mr. Walcott: "Mr. Bonadie has performed his duties in Barbados as an honourable trade unionist, and were it not so, the union would have publicly disaffiliated itself from the CCL. [as published]

He emphasised therefore that he could state without fear that anyone who had made a slanderous statement about Mr. Bonadie's presence here was using the familiar tactic used against innocent citizens even in their homeland.

Mr. Walcott cautioned that the machinery of state security and intelligence could at times deprive people of liberty, become threats to democracy, and transfer power to a small band of vagabonds.

CCL Official's Remarks

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

Secretary-Treasurer of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) Burns Bonadie is urging Government to re-open dialogue on the current wages dispute here and avoid disenchanted workers joining what he called "agitators" who appear to have ready answers.

In an address to the Barbados Workers Union (BWU) 41st annual conference at the Labour College, Mr. Bonadie said that recently within the Caribbean, several attempts had been made to form and foster new trade unions.

He said that these unions were affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions headquartered in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The CCL official said that as Caribbean people "we are not unaware" of a certain persuasion in the area and he

reminded Caribbean people to be on the lookout for such developments in their countries.

He charged that one of the ways in which the new unions operate was to persuade workers in bringing about quick results, and confront the democratic institutions with the threat of joining "get results at any cost" unions.

Calling on workers to "beware", Mr. Bonadie said: "They also advocate that the system which we have, whether political, economic, or social needs total destruction. They accused the established unions of all sorts of things including not being aggressive enough, not mobilising the masses against the enemy and such well known cliches."

He added: "It is therefore imperative that the Govern-

ment continue the dialogue on the present wages dispute since a dissatisfied and disenchanted work-force can easily be manipulated by fly by night agitators who appear to have ready answers."

Bonadie said Government must avoid forcing workers into "these willing hands" whose agenda are certainly not in the best interest of the workers and the country since the trade union is only being used as a vehicle to travel to other destinations where the workers thought they were going.

"Let us not forget Lenin's exhortation to would-be revolutionaries that the formation of trade unions is a critical first step in the destruction of the system," he added.

Adams Reaction

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Tom Adams last night described as "quite reasonable" the suggestion made by Mr. Frank Walcott that apart from the \$25 million Government has offered public service workers this year that an additional \$5 million should be provided next year.

However, Mr. Adams was quick to point out that this did not mean that Government was immediately agreeing to the suggestion.

He reiterated that he had said all along that once the economy improved he would be willing to have another look

at increasing wages offered to the public service employees.

Mr. Adams was speaking to the Press just before flying out to London to attend the Commonwealth Finance Ministers conference which opens there today. It will be a two-day session.

When reminded that the suggestion made by Mr. Walcott only applied to the views of the Barbados Workers' Union and might not meet with the approval of the other unions representing public workers, Mr. Adams said that he often found himself puzzled as to how a number of the other unions were operating.

He said that one or two of them traditionally did not agree with anything the Government had said over the years about wages.

But he warned that this was not the time to be going to and fro on the wages question.

Mr. Adams said that Government had stated its position after long consideration of the matter.

When asked what would be the Government's strategy in case of industrial action arising out of the wages dispute, Mr. Adams said: "We are quite prepared to face up to this."

BWU Council Elections

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] There are three vice-presidents on the Executive Council of the Barbados Workers Union.

They are Mr. Alwyn Tull of the Council of Government Workers; Mr. Sylvester Forde of the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation and Mr. Gordon Parris of Berger Paints.

The three were chosen from eight candidates who contested the elections at the 41st annual conference of the BWU at the Labour College, Mangrove, St. Philip last Saturday.

Two new members were elected to the council. They were Mr. Arnold (Percy) Alleyne of the Water Authority and Mr. Courtney Carrington of the Council of Hotel Workers.

Meanwhile, Mr. Frank Walcott was returned unopposed as General Secretary; Mr. Lemuel Daniel was returned unopposed as President and Mr. Dennis Gibbs was returned unopposed as Treasurer.

Council members who were returned are Ms. Dorothy Williams, Mr. Ivor Inniss, Mr. David Giles, Mr. Keith Reid, Mr. Ulric Lynch, Ms. Delores Hunte, Mr. Frank Howard, Mr. Hugh Arthur, Mr. Deighton King, Mr. De Vere Brewster, Mr. Anthony Prince, Mr. Charles Burnham, Mr. Joseph Boyce, Mr. Antonio Downes, Mr. Samuel Carter and Mr. St. Clair Gittens.

The stand-ins are Mr. Charles Davis, Mr. Vere Stuart, Mr. Philip Bostic and Mr. Frank Grimes.

Withdrawal of Deadline

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 1 Sep 82 p 24

[Text] A SPOKESMAN for the Establishments Division has confirmed that the National Union Of Public Workers (NUPW) has withdrawn the August 31 ultimatum which it delivered to that department early last month.

The spokesman said the department had received a recent letter stating that the union had done away with the deadline which Government had been given to respond to new proposals which were to have been submitted by the union.

A source within the NUPW hinted that the ultimatum had to be withdrawn because the union had joined with seven other unions representing civil servants to form a common

front with which to face the Government.

This was in response to the final offer of \$25 across the board for all civil servants as stated by Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Following the Prime Minister's statement, the union held a top level meeting and a resolution was drafted, stating that the union would be submitting compromise proposals and the Government would have until August 31 to respond positively.

The NUPW, like the other unions representing civil servants, with the exception of the Barbados Workers Union (BWU), is expected to submit new proposals come Friday.

OPPOSITION DLP SCORES ADAMS GOVERNMENT; EMERGENCY POWERS BILL

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Aug 82 p 5

[Text]

BRIDGETOWN, Sun., (Cana):
BARBADOS main opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) today reaffirmed its commitment to blocking a proposed bill on emergency powers at its annual conference here today.

DLP President Brandford Taitt, who has been returned unopposed to the presidency, said the party firmly believed that the legislation was intended to erode the rights and freedoms of Barbadians.

Mr Taitt accused the incumbent Barbados Labour Party (BLP) regime of using the people as mere "means" to achieve "questionable ends."

He told the DLP's one-day conference that people only had to examine the record of the Tom Adams administration during its six years in office to arrive at this conclusion, he did not elaborate.

"We (the DLP) continue to believe that people are an end in themselves and therefore government must be a clear reflection of their legitimate aspirations," the DLP President said.

UNDER ATTACK

Mr Taitt accused the administration of "insincerity and cynicism" and said it felt "threatened by reaction of a slowly-awaking population" — a situation which had given birth to the Emergency Powers Bill.

The controversial piece of legislation, brought to

parliament earlier this year, has been under constant attack from the DLP, and several trade unions.

The government, has dismissed the charge, stating that the purpose of the proposed legislation is to provide for the smooth running of the country during a period of national emergency.

The bill is before a select committee of the House of Assembly.

Mr Taitt told party supporters "our resistance of their foolishness must be unalterable and complete."

The opposition party, which holds 10 seats in the 27-member House, wants the bill withdrawn entirely.

"Emergency powers legislation and other similar preparation are the only symptoms of a more deep-seated fear of the people by the government, which heightens as it becomes obvious that nobody believes anything such as government says anymore," the DLP President said.

The DLP, which carried Barbados into independence in 1966 under the leadership of current Opposition leader Errol Barrow, voiced its concern about existing tensions between the government and the trade unions, warning that a current dispute over civil service could deteriorate.

The party president recalled that in its 1976 manifesto, the BLP had stated that it was un-

swervingly committed to the principle of collective bargaining, but had since legislated salaries for public workers on three occasions.

The DLP President also condemned "the wilful and spiteful transfer" of some civil servants and the suspension of "an enlarging number of others" for unspecified reasons.

"Is there any wonder that civil service morale is low? Do they have reason to trust the government?" Taitt asked.

The DLP head also expressed concern about the safety of local women in the light of a number of recent disappearances and the discovery of the bodies of four women in canefields.

"The reform of the family law and other much vaunted improvements in the area of women's affairs 'by the Adams regime' can mean nothing to our Barbadian women if they cannot walk our streets without fear," Taitt said.

The DLP President also urged Barbadians to give their maximum cooperation to the police to enable them to provide the protection required by all citizens.

The one-day conference will elect new officers to serve the party during the ensuing year as well as discuss resolution from the party's constituency branches, some of which deal with national issues such as the the Emergency Powers Bill.

UNION SPLITS OVER STRIKE DURING HOTEL EMPLOYERS' CASE

Request for Legal Ruling

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 24 Aug 82 pp 1, 2

[Text]

The Bermuda Industrial Union yesterday called on the hotel employers to drop their court action and asked the Attorney General to clarify the law on sympathy strikes.

"This, we contend, could save all disruption and bitterness already generated by the unnecessary court action being initiated by the Hotel Employers of Bermuda," said union president Mr. Ottiwell Simmons.

His statement was the latest round in the war of words with the H.E.B. over its decision to take the union to court following last summer's damaging labour unrest.

The 6,000 B.I.U. members are planning to stop work and attend the Supreme Court when the case is heard. This was last week called "catastrophic" by the Premier who appealed for the union to reconsider.

Mr. Simmons replied yesterday: "The B.I.U. would appreciate it if Premier Swan would stop demonstrating his bias in favour of the foreign owners of the H.E.B. in their unprecedented court action against the B.I.U. membership and its officers, otherwise Mr. Swan may suffer the same embarrassment as his predecessor Mr. David Gibbons when last year he

urged workers not to express their solidarity with each other.

"At that time the workers defied Mr. Gibbons' urgings when thousands from all unions downed tools and consequently marking May 5, 1981, as the historical Solidarity Day."

In the meantime the B.I.U. wants the "sticky" legal issues to be shelved until after "the exciting events of Labour Day" on September 6.

Mr. Swan responded last night by saying that he would not bow to threats — "It's intimidation," he said — and the H.E.B. vowed to go ahead with the court action as planned.

The Premier said it was not his intention to show bias one way or the other but that it was for the courts to clarify the law. Mr. Swan said his record of sympathy for the union while Minister of Home Affairs stood on its merits.

"But at the same time I do have sympathy for anyone who wants to find out where they stand in law," he continued.

"I am concerned about the threats of Mr. Simmons. I think it's arrant nonsense. My concern is for the country itself. The courts are supposed to be one of the pillars of our society and this should not be made a mockery of."

The Premier said he felt the proper way to clarify the law on sympathy strikes was through the courts and not by merely asking the Attorney General.

He repeated his concern about the catastrophic effect the walk-out by B.I.U. workers would have on the tourist industry. The country would have to be "wound down" in preparation for this, he said.

"That is why I said we should put the country on notice that what we are dealing with is a very serious matter. What is wrong with having the law clarified? I am amazed that Mr. Simmons talks about concentrating on Labour Day first. Now is the time to make sure people are kept employed — that is what it is all about."

Mr. John Harvey, executive officer of the H.E.B.,

said it was up to the Supreme Court to decide the

issue. "It is a fair and democratic way of proceed—

ing," he said. "Justice should be seen to be done."

Break in Union Ranks

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 30 Aug 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Shop stewards of the Island's major hotels have shocked top officers of the Bermuda Industrial Union by breaking ranks and rejecting the union's call to stop work during the upcoming court case brought by the Hotel Employers of Bermuda. In a short two-sentence "Dear Mr. President" letter, the chief shop stewards, representing more than 1,200 hotel workers, told B.I.U. President Mr. Ottiwell Simmons M.P. that it would serve no purpose to stop working during the civil action that resulted from last year's sympathy strikes by hotel workers.

And according to information received by The Royal Gazette, hotel shop stewards felt the union should not have announced the proposed work stoppage without first consulting with them.

The move for union members to leave their jobs and sit in the precincts of the Supreme Court while the case was being heard was announced by union lawyer Mr. Julian Hall on August 18 following a union meeting at which Mr. Hall said there was strong support for the intended action.

Mr. Simmons confirmed yesterday that the chief shop stewards of the hotel had asked for a union meeting on Tuesday to discuss both Labour Day festivities and the court case. But he refused to confirm or deny the contents of the letter allegedly delivered to him.

"Where did you get that letter from?" he asked. "It appears to me that you have information that should be in the union."

He added: "There is a great deal of support for it (the work stoppage)."

Contacted yesterday by The Royal Gazette, chief shop steward at the Loews Beach Hotel and Golf Club in St. George's, Mr. Derrick

Burgess, refused also to confirm or deny that the letter had been written. He also declined to make any comment on the matter.

Chief shop steward for the Castle Harbour Hotel, Mr. Greatfield Carmichael, also declined to comment on the letter, but said that the entire matter would be discussed at the union meeting on Tuesday.

The letter that was signed by eight chief shop stewards from the major hotels, except the Hamilton Princess, and delivered to Mr. Simmons personally last Thursday read:

"Dear Mr. President. We the undersigned, after long and deep discussions, have come to the conclusion that it will serve no useful purpose to withdraw our labour when the court decides to hear the case between the Hotel Employers of Bermuda and the Bermuda Industrial Union.

"We will instruct our fellow workers during meetings at our respective hotels to abide by our decision to lead them in the right direction."

The chief shop stewards apparently felt that if they did stop working while the case was heard, they would be in a no win situation. Even if the union won the

legal battle, it would take up to two years for the hotels to recover from lost bookings — hurting not only the pockets of hotel owners, but also the workers.

What also particularly upset the shop stewards was the way in which the work stoppage was being used for political motives.

The shop stewards felt that it was everyone's right in a democratic country to take somebody else to court to resolve differences — as in the present case. But they felt it would set a very dangerous precedent to stop work en masse simply because the union did not agree with an action or complaint.

The work stoppage is the B.I.U.'s answer to the H.E.B.'s intention to take the union to court despite a claim by Mr. Simmons that the suit was "frivolous".

The hotel employers countered that they were not seeking damages over last summer's strikes, but were testing the law to determine whether sympathy walk-outs were legal under the Labour Relations Act.

Mr. Alistair Gunning, legal counsel for the H.E.B., will seek an injunction to prevent the union from breaking the terms of its

contract by taking unlawful strike action.

The precise nature of the work stoppage during the trial to be held, probably this month or next, calls for a large show of union membership when the case

is being heard in Supreme Court. Mr. Hall said that because the 6,000 member union had been named in the suit, it was expected that members would attend the Supreme Court and vicinity during the trial.

Named in the action are Mr. Simmons, and other union officials including Mr. Elridge Brimmer, Miss Molly Burgess, Dr. Barbara Bail M.P., Mr. Kenneth Pilgrim, and Miss Carolyn Franklin.

CSO: 3025/469

GOVERNMENT UNVEILS HOUSING CRISIS PLAN; UBP HITS BACK AT PLP

Blast at PLP Criticism

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] . The United Bermuda Party rapped out a stinging reply yesterday to the "inflammatory" comments of Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans and lawyer Mr. Julian Hall at Thursday night's Dockyard public meeting on housing.

"Lois Browne and Julian Hall seem hell bent on creating havoc, violence and destruction in our peace-loving society," said Mr. Paul Leseur, chairman of the U.B.P.

Mr. Leseur was especially incensed at Mr. Hall's call for Bermudians to wage sit-ins on the lawns of large homes, including the Premier's, to protest Government's failure to deal with the housing crisis.

"To call for an occupation of the homes of private citizens is an absolute invasion of the privacy of people's lives," said Mr. Leseur.

"Surely as lawyers and as allegedly responsible members of this society, Mrs. Browne Evans and Mr. Hall would know that it is a fundamental legal principle that one must respect the rights of other citizens to enjoy their lives.

"Mr. Hall, aided and abetted by Mrs. Browne Evans, has acted without any regard to the interests of the community at large.

"The inflammatory remarks of Mr. Hall are nothing but extremism and an alignment with those in this society who would disrupt the otherwise peaceful lives of people."

Mr. Leseur went on to charge that these two "P.L.P. zealots chose to ignore and distort reality" in the public meeting speeches on housing.

He said that the 1980 Census, directed by P.L.P. M.P. Mr. Calvin Smith, "points out that there is not really a problem of overcrowding in our society".

The number of single-person households has increased to 25 percent of all homes, while four-person households dropped to 13 percent of the total, said Mr. Leseur.

His comments continued the recent wave of attack and counter-attack statements in the heated battle of words between the rival parties, which began over the Nadarajah affair.

Both Mr. Hall and Mrs. Browne Evans were bitterly critical of Government housing policies at the Dockyard meeting.

Mr. Hall spoke of people becoming "refugees in their own country" and he predicted that they will "n.e up".

Two-Pronged Government Program

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 27 Aug 82 pp 1, 2

[Text]

An ambitious double-headed package to combat Bermuda's housing crisis was unveiled yesterday in the major announcement promised by Government.

The twin thrusts of the package are aimed at increasing the availability of rented homes in both the public and private sectors. They are:

- A \$3.5 million Government project for 80 prefabricated three bedroom houses to be built within months and;
- A 12-point series of proposals, including some tax relief and the easing of restrictions, to encourage landlords into the rental market.

Premier the Hon. John Swan introduced the proposals, claiming that they "will do much to alleviate the housing shortage, both in the short term and in the long term".

He said: "We have arrived at solutions which will serve some housing needs by proceeding on a practical economic basis.

"Here, I am referring to the 80 modular units which will be ready for occupation in a matter of months.

"We propose to place 66 of these units on land already owned by Government. Thirty will be placed near Tulo Valley, Pembroke, 34 at Prospect, Devonshire, and two additional units will be placed in Glebe Lands in Pembroke." Sites for the remaining 14 houses have not yet been determined, he said.

The scheme was outlined in greater detail by Mr. David Lines, chairman of the Bermuda Housing Corporation.

Mr. Lines said that the houses would cost about \$50,000 each to build and they were expected to rent out for about \$450 per month. The homes will not be furnished but the rent includes maintenance costs for the site. Criteria for selecting the future tenants has not yet been decided.

The target date for occupation of the first of these homes is mid-November — about one month after the first shipload of prefabricated or "modular" units arrives from the Danish manufacturers.

Mr. Lines explained that the choice of both the "modular" type of construction and the building sites was prompted by the need to move quickly and keep costs down. The Corporation had been charged with that task by the Premier, he said.

Mr. Lines was anxious to allay fears over prefabricated homes. The Danish manufactures were selected from "33 submissions made to the Public Works Department from countries all over the world".

"The building product we are to use...has been in use successfully throughout Europe since shortly after the war," he said. The houses were expected to have a life of 60 years. They will be constructed of 8 inch thick aerated "clinker concrete" finished internally with a cement rendering and externally with coloured crushed marble cement.

The two main sites already chosen are Government land, 3.7 acres in Prospect east of Frog Lane and about 2.5 acres to the south of Tulo Valley, which has just been returned to Bermuda by the British Government.

Mr. Lines said that funds for the project were provided for in the budget and are available from the Consolidated Fund.

Details of the incentive proposals for private landlords were given by Senator the Hon. Charles Collis, Minister without Portfolio.

They are:

- An immediate change in Development Applications Board policy to allow already-constructed buildings to be converted for rental use without the normal and necessary subdivision permission.
- A two-year exemption period, starting from September 1, for application fees on all applications to the D.A.B. for new homes;

- A five-year exemption from land tax for any new house (less than 1,200 sq. ft. gross) or apartment (less than 1,000 sq. ft. gross) which gains planning permission after September 1 and is occupied by December 31, 1983. This exemption applies only if there are no more than three units on the property and only if they are rented to "persons ordinarily resident and gainfully employed in Bermuda";
- A cash rebate of \$2 per square foot (in lieu of any reduction in Customs duty on building materials) to the owners of all houses which fall within the five-year exemption period;
- The lifting of rent control on all new houses or apartments which have an occupancy certificate after September 1;
- Non-Bermudian home-owners will be allowed to rent their properties to Bermuda residents provided they go through local real estate agents;
- A change in planning law which will allow unoccupied commercial premises to be used for residential purposes without affecting their commercial designation;
- A new "infilling" policy on City of Hamilton office buildings which will allow residential units on top of an office building;
- The removal of security of tenure for tenants in any building which is owner-occupied, provided there are no more than three units on the same property;
- Litigation under the Rent Control Act will be switched to a special court, also dealing with family matters, "in due course".
- The encouragement of condominiums through an amendment to the Condominium Act.

Mr. Swan said that the package of proposals was worked out by a special committee set up by him, and he singled out for praise Mr. Lines, Senator Collis, Senator Llewellyn Peniston and Dr. the Hon. John Stubbs, Minister of Works and Housing.

All the men were present at yesterday's press conference and Dr. Stubbs announced that he has taken steps to improve the substandard housing in the area adjoining the Tulo Valley site.

"I have declared that area a General Improvement Area under the Bermuda Housing Act 1980 and action can now be taken to assist owners to improve their homes," he said.

OPPOSITION PLP FACTIONS URGE CHANGES IN PARTY RULES

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 26 Aug 82 pp 1, 3

[Text] A special committee is currently reviewing the Progressive Labour Party's constitution, which was last changed in 1977.

The recommendations of that committee will not be known until the P.L.P.'s annual conference slated for October, but it is known that some party members intend to push for a clause that would make it mandatory for the parliamentary leader to be elected on a regular basis.

These members are understood to be dissatisfied with the leadership of Mrs. Lois Browne Evans, Opposition Leader, and frustrated that the constitution contains no provisions for regular election of the parliamentary leader.

These same members predict that Mrs. Browne Evans would be reelected in any event, but believe that at the very least, the leader's post should be subject to the democratic process.

Under the Westminster parliamentary system, the parliamentary leader is either Opposition Leader or Premier, depending on which part holds the majority in the House of Assembly.

Another faction within the P.L.P. is pushing for a constitutional change that would bolster the position of the party leader.

Under the present constitution, the P.L.P. chair-

man and the parliamentary leader hold separate but equal positions of power.

The constitution says: "The offices of chairman of the party and parliamentary leader should be such that the two are separate but co-equal entities within the party." Some sources say that the P.L.P. chairman theoretically holds more power, because the chairman controls the Central Committee, the party's governing body, and the finance committee.

One constitutional change sought would give ultimate power to the parliamentary leader.

Mrs. Lois Browne Evans was last elected leader in 1976 for a second time, when the Hon. Mr. Justice Robinson, now Puisne Judge, stepped down. She also served as Opposition Leader from 1968 to 1972.

She has not been reelected since then and it is understood that although the constitution does not call for a reelection, the party leader was elected after the 1963, 1968 and 1972 elections. It should be pointed out that at each of the last two elections, the party leader at the time either lost their parliamentary seat or retired. In 1963 there was an election because the party had just been formed. The P.L.P. parliamentary leader is elected by the party's M.P.s and members of the Central Committee.

The Royal Gazette was unable to obtain a copy of the P.L.P. constitution. P.L.P. chairman Mr. Elbridge Simmons said only P.L.P. members could have access to the party's constitution. The constitution of the United Bermuda Party is, on the other hand, available to the public.

But the U.B.P.'s constitution does not call for the regular elections of its leader either. According to Mr. Ed Williams, the U.B.P. executive officer, the U.B.P.'s leader is elected "purely at the pleasure of the (U.B.P.) M.P.s".

P.L.P. spokesman Senator David Allen said there was nothing new about a committee set up to look into the Party's constitution.

"There is a constitutional committee looking into changes in the constitution, but there has been one for considerable time," said Mr. Allen. "The current committee has its origins dating from last year's P.L.P. annual delegates' conference. Such a review of the party's constitution is nothing new. We've had several reviews since the Party was formed.

"It would be inappropriate for myself or anyone else in the party to comment on anything that might come out of the committee before the delegates' conference, to be held in the autumn."

BRIEFS

'GAZETTE' CASE RULING--The Royal Gazette yesterday won its battle to have criminal libel proceedings against it declared unconstitutional. Chief Justice the Hon. Sir James Astwood set aside Mr. Justice Robinson's earlier order which allowed the prosecution of the newspaper and the Chief Justice branded the threat of such a prosecution "unjustifiable in a democratic society". The Chief Justice said the newspaper had been hindered in its freedom of expression as a result of the order, and had the prosecution gone ahead the newspaper would have lived in terrorem (in terror) of the threat of the Attorney General instituting criminal libel proceedings over stories he might not agree with. "This cannot be proper, nor can it be justified in a democratic society, nor can it be justified on the facts of the case before me," Sir James said in his 23-page judgment delivered in the Supreme Court. But the victory was not totally in favour of the newspaper. Sir James rejected THE ROYAL GAZETTE'S application to declare a Police search of its offices also unjustified and unconstitutional. [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 28 Aug 82 pp 1, 2]

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ELECTION PROSPECTS, POSSIBLE AFTERMATH DISCUSSED

Rio de Janeiro MANCHETE in Portuguese 28 Aug 82 pp 36-37

[Article by Murilo Melo Filho: "How Will Brazil Be After the Elections?"]

[Text] What will Brazil be after the elections? That is the question that millions of Brazilians are asking today in view of the certainty that 55 million voters will be called to express their opinion in the 15 November elections. What will happen on the 16th, and in the following weeks and months? It is obvious that Brazil will be one thing up to those elections, and something else after them.

After all, since 1965--thus, for 17 years--the Brazilian people have not elected their state governors directly. And rarely in the political history of the country has there been, as on next 15 November, an election for such a large number of offices: 66 senators, 21 state governors, 476 federal deputies, thousands of state deputies, mayors and councilmen.

Both the leaders of the Social Democratic Party (PDS) and the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) are guaranteeing that their party will elect governors in 16 states, with the other 5 going to their opponent.

All of these predictions depend on:

1. The number of votes and the plurality that one party will get over the other in a given state.
2. Whether the states in which the party wins have large or small election influence.

The PMDB is guaranteeing as certain its victory in the large states: Sao Paulo, Parana, Rio Grande do Sul, Minas and Rio de Janeiro, in addition to other medium ones, such as Goias, Pernambuco, Ceara, not to mention the small states such as Amazonas, Para and Rio Grande do Norte.

In the meantime, the PDS doubts the victory of the opposition in several of those states and guarantees that it will win the elections, especially in the North and Northeast area, which in the last election were already the big election bastions of the government party: Maranhao, Piaui, Ceara, Paraiba, Alagoas, Sergipe and Bahia.

If the elections for the Chamber of Deputies present good prospects for the opposition, the same is not true of the elections for the senate, in which the PMDB will stake the fate and destiny of the seats of several senators of its bloc elected in that landslide of 1974: Evandro Carreira (Amazonas), Mauro Benevides (Ceara), Agenor Maria (Rio Grande do Norte), Narcos Freire (Pernambuco), Gilvan Rocha (Sergipe), Dirceu Cardoso (Espirito Santo), Orestes Quercia (Sao Paulo), Leite Chaves (Parana), Evelasio Viera (Santa Catarina), Paulo Bossard (Rio Grande do Sul), Lazaro Barbosa (Goias), Adalberto Sena (Acre), Roberto Saturnino (Rio de Janeiro) and Teotonio Villela (Alagoas).

In the meantime, the most important PDS senate seats that will be at stake are those of Jarbas Passarinho (Para) and Luis Vianna Filho (Bahia).

And If There Is an Avalanche of the Opposition?

If the avalanche of opposition votes is of such proportion that it will give it the majority in the future Electoral College, charged with electing the successor to President Figueiredo, then the whole political picture will change substantially:

1. Because the government, aware of its minority in the Electoral College, is going to prefer that the coming presidential elections no longer be held by the indirect method, thus reestablishing direct elections for the president of the republic.
2. Because the government, convinced of its defeat in the Electoral College and resigned to its failure in direct elections will tend to thwart the free expression of the people, attempting another change in the rules of the political-election game.

In the first possibility, the Planalto Palace would try the heroic solution of launching Minister Mario Andreazza as candidate for president of the republic in the free and direct elections of 15 January 1984.

In the second possibility, an attempt would be made in the congress to obtain approval of a formula that would change the composition of the Electoral College.

In either of those alternatives, the possibilities of a civilian candidate to succeed President Figueiredo would increase considerably, which in that case could be Aureliano Chaves, Paulo Maluf or the hybrids: Jarbas Passarinho, Mario Andreazza or Costa Cavalcanti.

There is a growing movement in the armed forces for the successor to President Figueiredo to be a civilian. In their opinion, the army and the military have already spent themselves very much over the last 18 years by holding power, which presented them in the eyes of the public as primarily responsible for all the errors and failures of the government.

In addition, the armed forces have always reserved themselves as a sort of last recourse to which the political forces have accustomed themselves to resort in desperation when the national institutions threatened to collapse.

Beginning in 1964, however, the armed forces ceased to be that last recourse, because from that time on they have involved themselves and, in the process of development itself, they lost much of their force and prestige.

Thus, that higher court of appeal which the Brazilian leaderships grasped when everything failed them is lacking. Now there is no longer anyone to resort to.

Precisely for that reason, prominent military leaders are advocating the position that the time has come to return power to its legitimate occupants and holders, who are the civilians. Further still, why cannot those civilians belong to the PMDB or the Brazilian Labor Party (PTB)? Is it that they are not as Brazilian and patriotic as the leaders of the PDS? Is not alternation in power one of the crowning touches of the democratic process?

Those leaders do not concur in the proposition that the successor to Figueiredo inevitably has to be a four-star general, whether he be General Octavio Aguiar de Medeiros or General Jose Luis Coelho Neto. They believe that the cycle of military leaders has ended, beginning with Marshal Castelo Branco, continuing with Marshal Costa e Silva, with Generals Emilio Medici, Ernesto Geisel and Joao Figueiredo, but which is now reaching its end with the conclusion of a phase that has already lasted almost 20 years.

There are many business leaders, such as Mario Garnero and Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, vice presidents of the National Industry Confederation and the Federation of Industries of Sao Paulo, respectively, who predict very hard times for after 15 November.

They believe that the government is going to insure tight economic-financial measures until the next election polls open. After they close, there will come measures of a purely recessive and inflation-controlling nature.

Until the elections, those measures will be held in abeyance precisely so as not to produce unpopular results which could revert against the expectations of the official party.

But after them, the government will have no way of avoiding those measures because no country can live indefinitely with an inflation rate of 100 percent per year: "With less than that, Joao Goulart was deposed from power."

They assert, therefore, that after 15 November the Planalto Palace is going to study some heroic measures, such as a possible maxi-devaluation of the cruzeiro in relation to the dollar, greater tightening of the banking margin of operation, a reduction of treasury issuances, a reduction of subsidies and supplementary recessive measures.

Changes in the Political-Party Area

In the political-party area, it is also expected that the postelection period will present some important changes:

1. Party reform, with the abolition of the present parties and the formation of others, above all, to eliminate or attenuate the plebiscitary nature of the

coming election, which is moving toward a radicalization to be decided between the PMDB and the PDS.

2. Cabinet reform in order to adapt the team of President Figueiredo's aides to the new political order that emerges from the 15 November polls. General Rubem Ludwig, himself, who is leaving the Education Ministry to assume the position of chief of the Military Household of the Presidency, has already publicly admitted the possibility of that cabinet reshuffle being made in order to make possible the appointment of opposition ministers, from the PMDB: "After all, the alternation of power is part of the democratic game itself."

3. New balance of power, with the PMDB established in the governorship of several important states and with a powerful bloc of deputies in a position to dialog on an equal footing with the Planalto Palace. Although those governors may depend on the central government for the release of credits, the truth is that the PMDB, which at the present time has only one governor, that of Rio de Janeiro, will have control of several other states and will have much stronger trumps in its hands to face the federal government.

8711

CSO: 3001/230

FOREIGN DEBT SHOULD REACH \$88 BILLION BY END OF YEAR

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Aug 82 p 7

[Article by Aloysio Biondi]

[Text] The Brazilian foreign debt should reach \$75 billion by the end of this year, a leap of 20 percent over the total of \$61.4 billion reached at the end of 1981 and widely exceeding the predictions of an increase of less than 15 percent made by the government at the beginning of the year. Instead of increasing \$9 billion, the foreign debt will have swollen by \$13 billion in 1982.

In addition to those obligations recognized as the "foreign debt" by the Brazilian Government, Brazil also owed another \$12.9 billion at the end of 1981 as short-term debits, that is, to be paid in a maximum period of 1 year--and for which reason are not included in the "official debt." Even if those short-term obligations do not increase at all in 1982, adding them to the official debt reveals a total debt of almost \$88 billion for Brazil at the end of this year.

The rapid aggravation of the country's exchange situation had been pointed out for months by economists and business leaders who suggest renegotiation of the foreign debt without the government officially admitting the extent of the problem. In recent weeks, however, the subject has aroused increasing concern in official or semiofficial areas with the circulation of restricted reports and studies in which the alternatives Brazil has for coping with the deterioration of its foreign accounts are discussed exhaustively.

It is pointed out in those studies that Brazil is extremely vulnerable in the face of the problems that have been affecting the world economy, with an increasing number of countries facing the impossibility of continuing to pay their external obligations--which leads the bankers to exercise ever greater caution in granting new loans. The threats to the security of the country in that area are reinforced by the size of the short-term debt represented, as one of those analyses points out, by "obligations to be paid within 1 year if there is no renewal of the credits. In a situation of (international) liquidity crisis, these lines of credit may not be renewed...and if that debt is very high, the country will find itself unable to meet its foreign obligations.

The Aggravation

At the beginning of this year, the ministers in the economic area released long-term--up to 1990--projections for the development of the Brazilian foreign debt. In those estimates, it was considered that it would still grow, at the maximum, at the rate of 15 percent in 1982 but would gradually reduce its rate of expansion year by year, finally evolving to 10 or 11 percent per year.

Such optimistic projections were based on also optimistic analyses of the official experts for the areas of exports and foreign investment as well as for the rate of international interest.

None of those estimates was confirmed in the first half-year and there are no prospects of sudden changes in the picture because they would depend basically on the reactivation of the world economy--and solution of the problems of countries, such as Brazil, in difficulties to pay their foreign obligations.

Thus, under the present conditions and based on the results of the first half-year, it can be foreseen that the Brazilian foreign debt will increase \$13 billion and not \$9 billion as had been foreseen (see table).

It is important to understand that that problem will not appear only at the end of the year: as a matter of fact, since the inflow of dollars has been below the estimates, and the outflow has been greater than had been expected, it is obvious that the government is already facing thorny problems in the administration of its foreign accounts (see table).

Point by point, here is the current picture of the country's foreign debt:

Trade Balance: Originally, a surplus of \$3 billion was envisaged, that is, exports would exceed imports by \$3 billion. It may be supposed that there was the hope of a surplus of \$1.5 billion each half-year. From January to June, it was only \$250 million, that is, the government got \$1.2 billion less to take care of its foreign obligations. The estimate of a \$3 billion balance was revised to \$1 billion (see table) which can still be considered optimistic inasmuch as Brazilian exports are decreasing more and more in an ever more difficult world market: up to March, they had dropped 4.4 percent; in June, the drop compared to the first half of 1981 had already reached 8.5 percent.

Foreign Investments: The 6-month report of the Central Bank supplies the figures pertaining only to the period January to March 1982, that is, to the first quarter of the year. The result is extremely disappointing: the inflow of foreign capital had amounted to only \$500 million and since Brazilian companies invested abroad (Bank of Brazil, basically), there was even an outflow of \$200 million. Thus in the quarter, the balance of foreign investments was only \$300 million. Even if in the other quarters the inflow of capital was maintained at \$500 million, and the outflow dropped to \$100 million, the balance would be \$400 million per quarter, would total \$1.2 billion in 9 months which, added to the \$300 million of the first quarter, would total \$1.5 billion; half a billion dollars the \$2 billion envisaged--and quite far from the \$3 billion that ministers in the economic area mention frequently. There is a gap

How the Foreign Debt Ran Away
(predictions at the beginning of the year and revision made in July)
(in billion dollars)

<u>Itemization</u>	<u>Beginning of 1982 prediction</u>	<u>New prediction based on results of first half-year</u>	<u>Difference</u>
1. Inflow of dollars			
(a) Trade balance surplus	3.0	1.0	-2.0
(b) Foreign investments	2.0	1.5	-0.5
(c) Totals	5.0	2.5	-2.5
2. Outflow of dollars			
(a) Interest	-9.5	-11.0	1.5
(b) Dividends	-1.3	- 1.3	--
(c) Services	-3.2	- 3.2	--
(d) Totals	-14.0	-15.5	1.5
3. Growth of debt			
(Inflow minus out- flow of dollars)	-9.0	-13.0	4.0

Official Indebtedness Increases 20 Percent in 1982
(development of foreign debt in billions of dollars)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Medium and long- term official debt</u>	<u>Short term debt term (*)</u>	<u>Total debt</u>
1977	32.0	2.1	34.1
1978	43.5	1.6	45.1
1979	49.9	3.6	53.5
1980	53.9	9.4	63.3
1981	61.4	12.9	74.3
1982	74.4	12.9	87.3

(*) Estimates made by economists inasmuch as the Central Bank no longer issues those figures.

there of \$500 million compared to the official estimate--and which in practice must be much greater. Why? Because the \$300 billion "invested" in the first quarter did not always represent the "inflow" of real dollars: that figure also includes the figure for reinvestments, that is, the reapplication of profits (in cruzeiros) obtained by multinationals that operate in Brazil.

Interest: It had been envisaged that the country would spend \$9.5 billion this year in interest payments. In the first half of the year, there was an unforeseen drain of \$1 billion. International interest rates (Libor) fell in July but that lower level will only be charged after the renewal of each financing contract (which occurs every 6 months). Thus, in this second half-year Brazil's loans will still be incurring the same high interest rates as the first half of the year. In the best of cases, the drain of the second half-year will be \$500 million which, added to the extra expenditure of \$1 billion in the first half of the year, will represent an unforeseen outflow of another \$1.5 billion.

Adding the reduction of the trade balance surplus to the increased outflow of dollars through interest (and even if the other expenditures do not increase) one gets a difference of \$4 billion over the increase of \$9 billion initially envisaged for the Brazilian foreign debt in 1982, totaling an increase of \$13 billion in the country's foreign debt.

Without Reserves

In addition to needing \$13 billion in new loans to cover that gap, Brazil would need to raise another \$8 billion during the year to pay the amortizations (installments) on the old debt.

The total amount of money that Brazil needs to acquire abroad in 1982 is \$21 billion.

That figure is even more disquieting because the level of Brazilian exchange reserves--which could be used in emergency situations to meet obligations--are at the low level of \$6.9 billion, according to the government.

8711

CSO: 3001/230

IBRE DOCUMENT CITES SIGNS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Aug 82 p 34

[Text] Rio--There are signs of recovery in almost all sectors of the economy with a real increase of 7.9 percent in business activity in the first half-year (compared to the same period in 1981); an increase in the use of installed capacity in industry, from 74 percent in January of this year to 77 percent in June; improvement in the level of employment (in Sao Paulo, the unemployment rate fell from 7.1 to 5.25 percent); although in industry, the growth rate from January to May was still negative. Those are the principal conclusions of the "Newsletter From IBRE," the Brazilian Institute of Economy of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) published in the August edition of the magazine CONJUNTURA ECONOMICA [Economic Current Affairs] released yesterday.

The Brazilian Institute of Economy warns, however, that the gradual rise of the [national] product rate should not be cause for premature elation because the recovery that has occurred this year "is occurring in contraposition to the foreign [trade] sector, which has not succeeded in achieving the same results as the previous year." According to the "Newsletter," the level of the domestic product is affected by the drop that has occurred in foreign trade. "On the one hand," says the document, "imports cannot rise without generating a trade deficit, thus becoming restricted by quantitative controls. There is an element of cost there through a greater shortage of imported raw materials, which hurt the formulation of a competitive price abroad."

At a time of recovery of domestic demand, the drop in income from exports has had a negative effect which, together with other factors, shapes up to quite a modest trade balance surplus for this year--according to the forecasts of the FGV, less than \$2 billion. Despite the fact that the foreign trade picture has not been favorable, Brazil has not followed the majority of its partners, which have effected larger exchange devaluations.

For the first quarter, for example, the exchange variation was only 35.5 percent against an inflation rate of 47 percent without counting the withdrawal of part of the tax subsidy previously granted to exports. The granting of greater incentives to the exporting sector, however, should occur only after the November elections, according to the predictions of the IBRE experts.

Inflation

The FGV also predicts the prospect of a program of greater containment of inflation for after the elections. Until that time, economic policy will remain at the whim of the contingencies of the moment because the government's maneuvering room is very small. According to the IBRE experts, the renewal of inflation during the half-year was due to the issuance of currency, the increases of administered rates and prices, and the wage policy.

With regard to interest rates, the IBRE Newsletter says that the restrictive monetary policy encounters obstacles, inasmuch as the competition for financial funds requires that the government itself become a factor in the raising of rates because of the greater return it tends to offer to savers in general.

8711

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NETO REFUSES TO PLEDGE THERE WILL NOT BE MAXI-DEVALUATION

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 17 Aug 82 p 11

[Text] Sao Paulo--The government will not give businessmen any sort of guarantee that there will not be a maxi-devaluation for two reasons: "first, because to ask for that is asinine, and in the second place, because there will not be any maxi-devaluation because exports are growing in physical volume and there is no reason for that fear."

After that statement, Planning Minister Delfim Neto related that he is studying a return to the practice of the "old system of collateral but without the discount form. Now, the bank will give a line of credit to the businessman and the latter will be able to renew it permanently up to the ceiling, putting up negotiable copies of invoices [duplicatas] as a guarantee. For example: the customer makes a 4-month contract with the bank and the monetary correction will be post-fixed on the debtor balance at the end of that period."

No Guarantee

The planning minister, who participated with President Figueiredo and other ministers in the ceremony opening the First Brazilian Slaughter Livestock Conference at the Secretariat of Agriculture, explained:

"We did the post-fixing and now we are adjusting the assessment with reference to the post and pre-fixing. We are going to move toward replacing the discount that exists today in the old, or rather, very modern collateral accounts in order to give the businessmen more peace of mind. We are going to move in the direction of normalizing credit.

Delfim Neto disagreed with the position of the businessmen, especially those connected with the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo (FIESP), who ended up condemning the allotment of 10 percent more bank credit to agriculture and reducing the free portion of credit for industry and commerce.

"That would only be true if the total volume of credit were constant. If the total sum of credit were 10, one person would have 4 and the other 6, and if I gave 5 to one, the other would need 5. Now, if the credit instead of being 10 were 11, one gets 5 and the other also gets 5. The premise that underlies that complaint is incorrect. Why? Because there is a mechanism for expanding private credit through the foreign market, which is operating. Another fact is that the credit to the private sector is growing 110 percent per year."

Delfim Neto said that there is no reason to devalue the cruzeiro at a maximum level because the physical volume of exports is growing despite the drop in prices of agricultural products and raw materials. He referred to the drop in the price of soybean in Chicago and showed concern. But that concern did not overcome his optimism of estimating a surplus of \$1.5 billion for the trade balance at the end of the year. (Last week, after a meeting with businessmen in the Sao Paulo Businessmen's Center, the minister predicted a surplus of a maximum of \$800).

8711

CSO: 3001/230

BRIEFS

SOLAR ENERGY PACT WITH LIBYA--A Brazilian mission made up of representatives of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, of the Brazilian Electric Enterprises Auxiliary Company (CAEEB) and private firms will leave in a few days for Libya to proceed with a cooperation agreement in the solar energy area. The mission chief, Eliseu Visconti, aide to Minister Cesar Cals for international affairs, said that the mission will be of a technical nature and will go to evaluate in what solar energy modes Brazil will be able to collaborate with Libya. The mission will also evaluate the local insulation conditions with a view to possible adaptations in Brazilian solar technology. The probable modes in which Brazil will cooperate with the Arab country are in solar heating, refrigeration and desalination of water. The agreement of intent was signed 3 months ago between the minister of mines and energy and the Libyan oil and energy minister, who was visiting Brazil. [Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 17 Aug 82 p 11] 8711

CSO: 3001/232

'MENSAJE' SCORES MILITARY REGIME'S GOALS, POLICIES

Santiago MENSAJE in Spanish Sep 82 pp 456-459

[Commentary by Jose Joaquin Brunner]

[Text] This month marks the anniversary of 9 years of military government. According to the constitution, approved by plebiscite in 1980, that same government should last until 1989, at which time it will be up to the commanders in chief of the Armed Forces and the general director of the Military Police to nominate, "subject to ratification by the citizens," the person who will occupy the office of president of the republic until 1997.

Throughout that long period, it will be impossible for the people's will to express itself freely, issue its own verdict concerning the rulers, or decide what kind of government it wants for the country.

In such circumstances, the work of analysts cannot aspire to interpret--and even less replace--the majority and minority opinions.

The years that have passed nevertheless demand a verdict transcending the present situation. The fact is that the profound crisis enveloping the country demands reflection on the path that has been followed and on our future prospects.

Historical Denial

The conviction of every form of authoritarianism--we would say almost its reason for being--is that it can transform society into a field for experimentation, the idea being that it is possible to design a society "from above" and force it to change.

In the case of Chile, that conviction also includes a powerful reactive element: the attempt is being made to drastically alter the country's line of historical development, which the regime's supporters and ideologists identify with party democracy, people's mobilization, and the interventionist or welfare state. That triad--understood in its negative forms as demagoguery, populism, and state control--would supposedly have been fatal to the nation, and for that very reason, the attempt has been made to eradicate it from the country's future.

Chilean military authoritarianism therefore set about to "reestablish" the nation, and for that purpose it combined in one design the suppression of democratic politics and the transformation of society, the economy, and culture in accordance with a market model. In short, the neoliberal experiment was going to be imposed by force as a grandiose undertaking in social engineering. Its success, however, required favorable conditions for experimentation: a freeze on social conflicts, full government powers, the "temporary" suppression of individual rights and freedoms, and the silencing of public debate--in short, the elimination of opposition.

Utopia Frustrated

The results of experimentation are there to see. Their economic, political, and cultural dimension has been extensively commented on and analyzed.¹ Chile today is not stronger economically, nor is its society more just. The various groups, forces, and ideologies are not coexisting better than before, nor is the resolution of the accumulating conflicts more reasonable. Cultural life has not flourished--quite the contrary: mute testimony to this fact is provided by the supervised universities, which are living in the midst of apparent order.²

So what has happened to the social engineering project, which an attempt was made to impose under such favorable repressive conditions that success could be expected and its supporters could imagine a "great nation" after a number of years?

Perhaps the only thing that has happened is that it has been expensively proven once again that societies are not easily led, even under the pressure of force. Societies resent it and defend themselves in 1,000 ways against attempts to remake them from above. They oppose planned models with the reality of their many and contradictory interests, the diversity which is their characteristic feature, their traditions, the ideologies that proliferate within groups and associations of all kinds, shared selfishness, and active solidarity.

We are not even talking here about open resistance, rebellious opposition, or civil disobedience. Furthermore, little of that has had the opportunity to exist in Chile. So the problem is not to be found at that level, because the neoliberal experiment has had all the resources of power, including armed power, at its disposal for carrying out its design for society. But that has not been enough: what has also been needed is an active and solid managerial class with investment plans, the support of the population, legitimate government authorities, channels for social mobilization, international support, serious and experienced technicians, social and union leaders and organizations willing to take part in the undertaking for reestablishing the nation, and informed and critical public opinion. In the absence of those conditions, the experiment could not work.

The result has been that where, for example, the attempt was made to impose market conditions and competence, what we got was a concentration of assets in the hands of a few economic groups. And whereas it was thought that the latter would insure at least prosperity and above all efficiency, the actual result was that those groups were extremely weak, and intervention was required. When

it was decided that private initiative would be promoted in the universities, the only thing actually promoted was the status of the old regional seats of learning, which have now been proudly converted to public universities. And while it was imagined that politics would be "suppressed," it was discovered, when all was said and done, that politics had only changed its form and reappeared on all sides, the difference being that now it was appearing in distorted, disguised, and perverse forms.

Absence of a Plan

Nevertheless, what faces us is not what could be called simply a failure of the design in question. Neither are we faced exclusively with the reactions of a society which is trying to protect itself from the military government's initiatives for reestablishing the nation and which, for that purpose, uses for its own benefit--when it can and when it does not withdraw--the mechanisms set in motion by the neoliberal experiment. Lastly, we are not faced with a passing but serious crisis produced by a capitalist recession and a few deviations from the correct application of the model.

There is a crisis concerning the future in this country, and it has several dimensions.

Above all else, there is the absence of a national plan.

Regardless of one's opinion of modern Chilean history before 1973, it is a fact that the country used to have a plan of its own, one which simultaneously expressed a broad social consensus and allowed the most diverse conflicts concerning its means of implementation to exist. That plan was identified with the intention to democratize society, insure its industrialization, and extend the benefits of education to growing sectors of the population.

To simplify in the extreme, it can be said that from 1938 on, our governments tried to implement that plan through assorted policies and with very different emphases in the way they combined those three basic objectives. In practice, the plan in question was accompanied by a growing process of incorporating all social sectors into democratic politics and into the mechanisms for redistributing wealth and social benefits. For that very reason, it took political and social conflicts for granted and did not reject them.

It does not seem possible to speak of an equivalent national plan since 1973.

It is true that a design has existed--sometimes called a "model" through association with its foundations in economics--but that design is shared only by a minority. Moreover, it is necessary at this point to wonder what kind of future is being proposed to the country by such a design. Here is where there is talk of the "market," just as before, there was talk of democracy. But it is clear that in the best of cases, the market is an instrument for regulating trade and assigning resources, not a way of life that can be aspired to as a historical objective. There is also talk about a slow and limited transition to authoritarian and uneven democracy. But is it possible to mobilize a country's

intelligence and its energies in support of a goal that is so narrow and, to top it all off, administered from above?

As is shown by other authoritarian experiences, the goal of democracy becomes alive and intense only where it is imposed from below and constitutes a recovery of forms of freedom previously denied--that is, with freedom to organize, strong unions, political parties, public debate, free access to the media, the election and control of authorities, and so on.

Undermined Identity

A shared national plan, which permits conflicts and continuity in the state, is not an outlandish demand, nor does it constitute an abstract or unimportant fact in the history of peoples. It is precisely around a plan that nations are built, and it is through such a plan that they establish their collective identities and their position in the world. This is a point made by Tocqueville and Huntington in the case of the United States and again by Gongora in the case of Chile in his study of the government's role in Chile's structure as a country.³

When all is said and done, the building of a national identity--the recognition of a country in its history and its influence--is the necessary foundation for having a legitimate political system with a sense of solidarity, a national culture, and a civilized way of living together. Among other things, Chile's role in Latin America and in the Western world has been intertwined very vitally for several decades with that special national identity which was a mingling of the images of democracy, its multiparty structure, its universities, its closed system of social classes, its writers, its middle class, and so on.

The experience of the past 9 years has seriously undermined the foundations and expressions of our special structure of identity. What is worse, we do not recognize ourselves in the images being proposed to us as alternatives: the display of wealth here is always fleeting and somewhat decadent, the traditional upper class has been blurred by a financial and vulnerable "new middle class," repression is not winning acceptance as the survival of the fittest, ideologists are not acceding to the role of intellectuals, authoritarianism is not succeeding in assembling a political party, and nationalist spirit is being confused with something very close to veiled fascism.

Chile is viewed by the kindest observers as an interesting experiment, but it does not have an identity of its own to set it apart in Latin America. It is part of a collection of authoritarian experiences, and people are just waiting to see how this "case" will develop in comparison with Argentina, Brazil, or Uruguay.

Political Shortsightedness

It is obvious that many people consider the chief problem to be the fact that the country lacks a political system enabling it to harbor hopes in its own future. Even the government's highest representative is in the habit of saying that he is perplexed concerning the political future which we will unavoidably

have to enter. That same feeling of confusion probably affects a majority of the population. Meanwhile, conflicts are accumulating, tensions are building, and divisions are growing deeper. For many people, exile has become their home--their life is one of exile.

Vast numbers of people have lost the habit of living without fear. The Armed Forces now appear unavoidably as forces for repression. The exclusion to which many people have been subjected--in the world of labor and in politics, the universities, the world of art, and communications--has added fuel to resentments and frustrations. The dogmatic presentation of the official positions themselves has been a poor teacher and has infected a number of the technicians and ideologists who have occupied positions of command during these years.

In such conditions, the absence of an open and inclusive political system militates powerfully against the country's future. The authorities at all levels suffer from a lack of legitimacy, public opinion lives on rumors and half-truths, the rulers seem to have support only in the forces they command, political debate is impoverished and contributes nothing, and politics is becoming secretive and conspiratorial. One day the enemy is the Communists, the next day it is the special-interest groups, and the day after that it is the unions hanging on to their privileges, and then the "fronde," who will it be tomorrow?

Moral Deterioration

Law students are taught in their first year of study that a political system is not the result of a constitution, but just the reverse. The political constitutions of states express a relationship of forces and, in the best of cases, a historical apprenticeship and a national will for the future.

In Chile, the "new institutionality"--the "model" in the political sphere--sits precariously on paper but lacks roots in the country's social and cultural reality. It seems aimed more at resolving the regime's internal quarrels and delaying their resolution than at providing the country with a stable means of building its future.

In fact, the problem generated throughout these years points to something much deeper than just the constitutional question. We are experiencing a crisis of normativeness, which is a phenomenon more social than political, and its roots are moral. With good reason, there has been talk in recent months about a moral crisis in Chile that is challenging the direction in which society is headed.

The features of that specific dimension of our crisis concerning the future are easy to identify. First, there is the practical and cultural devaluation of human rights, which at best is still with us in the form of people who have disappeared, torture, and political persecution. Second, there is the spread of the idea that all authority is based on force and free of public control. Third, there is the use of powerful means of communication simply as instruments for manipulating public opinion, which results in a loss of the sense of truth in social relations. Fourth, there is systematic discrediting

of the traditions and customs of living together which have been bequeathed to us by the past and which are also a source of normative behavior and of valuable social guidelines.

The combined effect of those phenomena goes far beyond the loss of those notions of justice, tolerance, equality, and historical continuity which form the substratum of the normative structures proper to modern and democratic life together. On the other hand, it points toward those states which sociologists usually call states of anomie--that is, the loss of shared norms in the area of cultural values and objectives, a loss which necessarily has repercussions on the behavior of individuals and groups. It is true that for longer or shorter periods of time, anomie may foster conformism or merely adaptive behavior in response to one's surroundings and threats from authority. But on the other hand, it does not permit the sharing of a collective apprenticeship that can be employed validly later in building a society that is recovering its freedom and must democratically regulate its conflicts and the satisfaction of the needs and wants of its members.

What this means is that in terms of the future, the deterioration of normative structures, the moral crisis of a society, and the states of anomie are nothing but dead weight.

Possible Lesson

Just as authoritarian patterns imposed on a society from above fail, so do societies that want to build democracy based on the state and by bureaucratic means. The experience of the real examples of socialism--ranging from the USSR to Poland--provides a historical example of this.

Perhaps that is the lesson that the country has relearned over the past 9 years. If so--if the current crisis concerning the future opens the way to a reactivation of all of society's capacities for governing itself and building itself--then history will have imposed on us, by twisting paths, a valuable lesson.

1. See Alejandro Foxley, "Neoliberal Experiments in Latin America," COLECCION ESTUDIOS CIEPLAN, No 7, 1982.

Manuel Antonio Garreton, "Evolucion Politica y Problemas de la Transicion a la Democracia en el Regimen Militar Chileno," FLACSO, Santiago, 1982.

Jose Joaquin Brunner, "La Cultura Autoritaria en Chile," FLACSO and the University of Minnesota, Santiago, 1981.

2. See Juan de Dios Vial Correa, "The Real University Challenge," REALIDAD, No 35, 1982.

3. See A. de Tocqueville, "Democracy in America," and S.P. Huntington, "The Promise of Disharmony," Harvard University Press, 1981; M. Gongora, "Ensayo historico sobre la nocion de Estado en Chile en los siglos XIX y XX," La Ciudad Publishers, Santiago, 1981.

M-19 PROPOSES LEGALIZATION, DIALOG WITH GOVERNMENT

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Aug 82 pp 1-A, 6-A

[Article by Jesus Maria Catano Espinosa]

[Text] The general staff of the clandestine M-19 has proposed to President Belisario Betancur legalization of the M-19 as a new Colombian political movement and asked for a dialogue with the government to reach a "national agreement" and bring peace to the country.



The three top leaders of the M-19, Jaime Bateman (center), Ivan Marino Ospina (left) and German Rojas Nino, chief of the Southern Front, during the meeting of the subversive movement.

"If Belisario wants to open democratic channels, let him prove it. We want to believe President Betancur," Jaime Bateman Cayon, top leader of the M-19, told EL TIEMPO.

The guerrilla organization and Bateman made their positions known during the so-called "Eighth National Guerrilla Conference," recently held in the Caqueta jungles, to which this correspondent was invited. Foreign press correspondents, CROMOS journalist Ligia Riveros and a group of children also attended the unexpected meeting.



From left to right: Gustavo Arias, Remberto Artunduaga, Ivan Marino Ospina, German Rojas, Jaime Bateman and other unidentified leaders talked to reporters during the guerrilla conference.



M-19 guerrillas, among them women and children during the "conference" held by the leaders of that countrywide subversive movement, who invited several nationals and foreign correspondents. Some of the participants may be seen in the photo who kept their faces covered.

Bateman said the path to M-19's legalization, which would permit it to participate openly in the democratic political struggle, should start with the release of political prisoners now held in several of the country's jails. They include Carlos Toledo Plata, Alvaro Fayad, Carlos Pizarro and Israel Santamaria, who are prominent leaders in Bateman's organization.

"The leaders who are released by the courts should talk with the government and simultaneously declare themselves in favor of national unity," added Bateman Cayon, who appeared extremely thin.

"I believe," he said referring to peace, "that any effort made to bring it about is valid. In any case, if the expected results are not obtained, history will recognize our efforts because we have made them in good faith."

The M-19 leader insisted that the democratic rapprochement process requested by his organization must benefit all the Colombian people, and particularly the trade unions.

Bateman Cayon emphasized that if the government agrees to a dialogue with the M-19, the dialogue should be headed by the chief of state himself and the guerrilla organization's general staff, and in no case should it include the guerrilla leaders released by the courts.

"We want these matters to be decided quickly," he emphasized. "Otherwise, things are delayed and all sorts of excuses are invented so that specific agreements are not reached."

He insisted that the M-19 wants to hold talks with the leaders of the other guerrilla organizations (FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], ELN [Army of National Liberation] and EPL [Popular Liberation Army]) and of the liberal and conservative parties as well as with the church hierarchy.

"To speak of surrendering arms is to impose an impossible condition from every point of view. The problem is not the arms. They are only pieces of iron which remain just that as long as there is no desire to use them. That is why we say let the country's democratization process begin and, in this way, the Colombian people can start participating in the electoral and civil process," he said. And he added:

"We are not going to give up our arms because that precisely is not the problem. However, we are willing to participate in civilian life, in legal political activity and in mobilization of the masses. But, is the country ready to accept this challenge?...Is the political class willing to yield on its information interests?," Bateman asked.

"We want to discuss many problems with the government, including the health, unemployment and malnutrition of the Colombian people. Once several of the problems are resolved, the country can be certain that peace will be a reality and then the arms can be used to make hoes."

The Conference

He revealed that various matters, including the performance of the Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala administration, were discussed at the Eighth National Guerrilla Conference.

"In the future, our political-military action will be the only thing that will determine if Mr Betancur's government is sincere. If Belisario wants to practice demagogy, he will find a concrete response, Bateman insisted.

He said an opening to dialogue could be achieved if demilitarization of the countryside were started.

He insisted that as long as the current situation in this country continues, the M-19 will never surrender "because we have the arms and men" as a result of the struggle and combats. "We want dialogue with the government. We need to see each other. It can be in Curillo, San Antonio, Morelia, Florencia or Bogota, or wherever they want, but security must be guaranteed," he said.

"We want public meetings so that the people can learn the truth."

Message to Betancur

Bateman gave this reporter a message for Betancur. He insists in the message that the banner of democratic rapprochement should be raised.

"You, Mr President, have accepted the dialogue which the M-19 has been proposing since the takeover of the Dominican Republic embassy. However, facts show the opposite. Three militants have just been killed by the army: the former political prisoners and popular leaders Camilo Restrepo Valencia, Luis Antonia Londono and Jose del Carmen Barreto.

"However, we view your acceptance with hope and approval and we want to believe in your sincerity. We propose that a great national dialogue be called because the problems now being experienced by the nation and the people affect all the country's dynamic forces.

"The lifting of the state of siege--which we claim to be a gain of the people--after many years of fighting is not enough to achieve peace. The reasons upon which Turbay based this action are false for there still are political prisoners and militarized zones, there is an attempt to replace the security statute with new repressive measures such as the high police code, and the actions of paramilitary organizations are on the increase.

"You have found a country with a high unemployment rate, a ruined national industry, scandals in the financial sector and millions of people in poverty and hunger. This is neither democracy nor peace.

"For the M-19, peace means political freedoms, respect for the life of popular fighters, people's participation in the national wealth and a social policy which satisfies the big needs of the people for food, housing, jobs, education and health.

"Today we call on the national government, all political parties, the armed forces, the church, trade unions, people's organizations and guerrilla movements to a 'great national dialogue' to reach a 'national agreement'.

"Colombia requires big solutions to its big problems. That is why the M-19--despite the assassination of its members with impunity and militarization of guerrilla zones--reaffirms its readiness for a dialogue aimed at bringing peace to the fatherland," concludes the message.



Young boys are also recruited by the clandestine M-19 for guerrilla activities. Three of them can be seen in the photo with modern weapons.



Four unidentified M-19 guerrillas in the depths of the Caqueta jungle carrying modern high caliber semiautomatic rifles.

IDEA OF NONALIGNED MOVEMENT MEMBERSHIP CRITICIZED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Aug 82 p 4-A

[Editorial: "Relations With The United States"]

[Text] Some voices have been heard in the Latin American Parliament--which is currently meeting in Bogota--and in some countries on this continent, especially Venezuela, regarding the desire to form an inter-American organization, without the U.S. presence, to replace the OAS. Fortunately, former President Caldera quite clearly has noted how foolish it would be to carry out this idea of taking the Americas on a path contrary to the great northern nation.

In the wake of the Malvinas war, there has been much talk lately about relations with the United States. Undoubtedly, there has been some deterioration of relations. However, the important thing now is not to waste time on reparations but to strengthen those relations and to expand ties among nations of the continent and to give them a new focus which would preclude any possibility of dispute and make true cooperation, mutual assistance and better treatment of lesser developed nations possible.

Colombia is especially interested in such a policy. President Betancur has made various proposals, including a new deal with the United States. It seems to us, however, that there is something wrong with the proposal of joining the nonaligned countries bloc whose policy has been characterized by hostility toward the United States and the West and has not had good political or economic results of any sort for Latin America. It would mean embarking the country on an international adventure, and we do not even want to think about the risks involved.

Relations between Colombia and the powerful northern neighbor never were as good as they have been in recent years. We cannot forget that the United States approved the coffee quota pact for which our countries had been struggling for so long. The treaty ratifying Colombia's sovereignty over the San Andres and Providencia archipelago was approved as a result of the direct effort of the Department of State. The United States was our best ally at the last coffee conference in London, where Brazil's proposal--seconded by France--threatened the future of Colombian coffee and did not succeed thanks to the intervention of the United States and West Germany. Furthermore,

as a result of the intervention of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, our flower growers and exporters were able to maintain their markets in that country despite the "lobby" and pressure of U.S. growers.

And we are not mentioning all the aid the Colombian Government has received in its fight against the narcotics traffic, an activity that has done so much harm to this country and has been one of the factors in the moral corruption that is such a burden on us. Therefore, why deteriorate a front in which thus far there have been no storm clouds? It is all right if President Betancur proposes a new dialogue with the United States, and very good if Colombia improves its position and strengthens its trade. But we do not believe that the best thing to do is to initiate this new phase by having our country join the group of "nonaligned" nations, which we already know are so well aligned.

9925

CSO: 3010/2254

PROFESSOR'S KILLER IDENTIFIED AS 'ELN' MEMBER

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Aug 82 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Text] Military spokesmen assert that the murderer of National University professor Alberto Arturo Alava Montenegro is a guerrilla of the National Army of Liberation (ELN). "We have identified him and he will have to confess his crime."

They explained that the ELN general staff gave the subject the job of "executing" Alava for betraying the subversive organization.

At the same time, they rejected the charges made against the army by certain university professors and students to the effect that the military ordered Alava Montenegro's murder. "It is outrageous to try to implicate the army in such a detestable crime," they told EL TIEMPO.

Although they admitted they had no evidence that Alava Montenegro was an active ELN member, they said it was seriously suspected that he and other ELN guerrillas were involved in subversive actions. He was known by the nickname of "Justiniano."

Alava Montenegro was first arrested on 15 May 1979 but was released for lack of evidence. He was found with ELN propaganda.

The professor again was arrested on 17 October 1981 for allegedly participating in the second national strike. That time he again was released.

The same sources said that 2 days before his death, Alava requested from the university a certificate attesting that he was a professor because he feared that he would be murdered and had decided to travel abroad.

"We know the ELN had sentenced him to death because he tried to leave the seditious organization. That is why he obtained a scholarship to study abroad," the military spokesmen said.

They compared the circumstances of his death with the "execution" of guerrilla Jaime Arenas Reyes. They said now there is an attempt to link the army to these cases.

Regarding the group MAS (Death to Kidnappers) and that it allegedly killed Alava Montenegro, they said it is a "smokescreen" laid by certain guerrilla groups. They explained that MAS was created exclusively to break up the organization that kidnapped Antioquia student Martha Nieves Ochoa in Medellin. The terrorists who organized this group decided to dissolve it after the young woman was released.

Professor Alava Montenegro was murdered last Friday morning in Bogota's "El Recuerdo" district by a young man who shot him at close range as he was returning home.

Alava Montenegro was buried the following day without incidents. More than 10,000 students accompanied his body to Central Cemetery.

9925

CSO: 3010/2254

BRIEFS

FARC GUERRILLAS KILL THREE--Medellin, 24 Aug--A guerrilla group, apparently of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), has shot to death three peasants in an Antioquia-Santander border area, EL TIEMPO learned tonight. The brothers Antonio and Anatolio Diaz and Alirio Henao were killed in Cano Baul, an area where about 10 armed men massacred eight peasants on 30 July. According to reports received tonight, the three victims were executed for being army informers. However, a 4th Brigade source said: "We have no reports of the death of the three peasants." The triple murder now raises to 23 the number of peasants killed in Antioquia in less than a month. [Article by Gustavo Ramirez] [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Aug 82 p 10-A] 9925

CSO: 3010/2254

REVISED INVESTMENT CODE DISTRIBUTED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Aug 82 p 3

[Text] ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Monday, (CANA) — The People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Grenada says it stands fully committed to the principle of economic development and social transformation of the country through a tripartite effort, involving the public, private and co-operative sectors.

The Grenada Government, led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, outlined its position in its revised Investment Code which has been circulated to "mass organisations" throughout the country for their comments before being forwarded to Cabinet for approval.

The government said in the document that it fully recognises that structural changes in the economy should necessitate a major shift from traditional agriculture to industry as the nucleus of economic growth.

As a result, the document said the PRG is strongly committed to the principle of industrial development compatible with the natural resources of the country.

It also said that a more active public sector role in the economy, as well as joint venture with local and foreign interests, and the provisions of

the necessary "incentives" to the private sector, are some of the measures considered feasible in order to accelerate the pace of industrial development in Grenada.

"The critical importance of the role of the private sector in the process of economic development is well recognised, and the government stands ready to actively support and encourage the private sector in expanding its range of activities provided that such activities are compatible and identifiable with the overall economic policy of the nation," the investment code said.

According to the code, the government would especially welcome activities which are oriented towards increasing production, employment, creation, the generation of and or the conservation of foreign exchange earnings and the preservation of the quality of the environment.

The document stated that with "official policy" centred on the achievement of specific goals such as the eradication of unemployment, and the economic, social and spiritual upliftment of Grenadians, a tripartite effort of the public, private and co-operative sectors making maximum use of local resources would receive the most active support from government.

On the question of areas of investment reserved for the state and para-statal bodies, the government stated that it reserves the right to exclude private sector ownership and control in areas such as public utilities, radio and television stations, infrastructural facilities, national transportation, the national airline, telecommunications and trading in certain strategic and basic commodities.

The left-leaning government, however, said that if private sector investment in these areas are considered necessary, it would be done on the invitation of the state or para-statal bodies with minority control by private investors, and with provisions for their total transfer to state or para-statal ownership within a stipulated time period.

The document also pointed out that except for certain commodities, the government would not grant approval for foreigners to invest in activities such as retail and distributive trading, internal transportation, cinemas, travel agencies, real estate, quarrying, automobiles and other repair services, as well as restaurants and catering, night clubs and other services including hairdressing, laundry and day cleaning.

PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC BASE OF CARRIACOU REVIEWED

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 31 Jul 82 pp 8-9

[Article by Garvin Stuart]

[Text] AS Regatta begins today, Carriacouans are expected to celebrate their biggest festival of fun and frolic with a mixture of joy, dignity, and an increasing awareness that they are no longer being placed in the background.

Standing proud and making progress within the scheme of things, Grenada's picturesque sister island of 13 square miles has great reason to celebrate, as do the hundreds of visitors who are there for the August fun-times.

The improvement of services and infrastructure has become the order of the day in Carriacou, economic construction the motto, and creation of a new society the essential aim.

The negative blanket of neglect and reject which hid Carriacou from the world is now being burnt, and more and more, the wealth of arts and culture there is being revealed.

"This Revolution has undertaken the task of wiping out the theory and practice of neglect and rejection in Carriacou and Petit Martinique, says George Prime, secretary for Carriacou and Petit Martinique Affairs. "Improvements in services and infrastructure are two main areas in which the masses have benefitted in this respect."

A desk was established in the Prime Minister's office, to serve the sister island's interests and, as a result, more benefits in health care, transportation, road repairs, electricity, jetty improvements, agriculture, education, and tourism, just to name a few, have been recorded.

To list comprehensively all the benefits Carriacou has received, one needs to write a book after thorough investigation. Such a book, about the two little islands, "In The

Mainstream Of The Revolution", published by Fedon Publishers, reflects this effort with sparkling clarity.

Even before the National Transport Service was established on the mainland, the people of Carriacou were enjoying the service of two buses given by the ERG to ease the transport strain in which only two private buses were there to serve the whole population.

"This was well received by the people. For before, the two buses used to be rammed-crammed," says Bro. Prime, adding: "A new health centre was also recently completed at Windward, while three resident doctors serve the island."

Along with this, "very speedy action was taken when the dilapidated road conditions were observed, in which hardly any traffic went to major villages. A road rehabilitation project was started immediately after the Revolution," he pointed out. Since then, over 4,300 feet were completely resurfaced in the Camp Carriacou-Harvey Vale area. Overall figure of roads completed is over 13 miles.

In recent months, electricity was received for the first time in Carriacouan villages, such as Harvey Vale and Belmont. "Some people regard it as the dawn of a bright new day, and that's

a reflection of our nation's brilliant new path, with everyone receiving some brightness," explained Bro. Prime. "The candlesticks we used to see are candlesticks no more."

The overall aim is to electrify both Carriacou and Petit Martinique, and the project is very much on schedule so far, with a powerful and resounding impact, he added.

"Energising is taking place: the voltage distribution system for Carriacou used to be 120, but is now 220 volts."

Together with Harvey Vale's brand new floating jetty, other waterfront areas are being uplifted with the Hillsborough Jetty being fully repaired and plans underway for building a new one by February next year. Meanwhile, "the Windward jetty has made it possible for a lot of craft to be accommodated" in the island's north.

As a result of these jetties now functioning, "the society's commercial aspect will receive more benefits. So far, there are concrete and tangible benefits as a result of their proper working condition, and it's reflected in increased traffic," Bro. Prime explained.

Although faced with the "brain drain" problem, whereby educated young people hunt visas to go abroad for self-advancement soon after

completing their studies, Carriacou is focusing plenty attention on building a strong economic base with well-educated workers.

Despite some Carriacouans having a strong visa mentality, which eventually encourages them to leave the country quickly, Bro. Prime insists that "this is not caused by a lack of patriotism, but in the quest for more opportunities abroad." Potential was not developed to keep youth and students from going abroad by the Gairy dictatorship, he said; "there was no attempt to create possibilities for farmers, fishermen, women, youth and students, among others.

Livestock programmes for rearing black belly sheep and cows, "to make Carriacou self-sufficient in meat production by 1985," while

cutting meat importation gradually are on the way. Said one native sister: "Idle hands plus idle animals equals more employment and meat for Carriacou."

Soil and water conservation, and reforestation, are tied up with the serious introduction of large-scale agriculture, there together with the Carriacou Rural Development Project, which aims to combine education and production. From September, under this project, students would be entering a boarding school where they can work and study at the same time.

Asked his views about the new direction Carriacou is taking, an old fisherman replied: "here lip service has been transformed into positive action."

PROBLEMS IN COCOA REHABILITATION PROGRAM REPORTED

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 Aug 82 p 7

[Text] THE six-year replanting programme of the Cocoa Rehabilitation Project will impose heavy financial burden on the Grenadian cocoa farmer through the loss of revenue coming from the old trees being replaced.

It also requires substantial input in the form of fertilizers, pesticides, drainage and other soil conservation measures for the young cocoa plants in the pre-bearing stages.

The average cocoa farmer does not have the financial means to carry out this investment unless he gets assistance until his young field comes into production.

Lack of assistance will jeopardise success of the entire propagation and replanting programme through farmers' reluctance to replace their aged trees, as well as a decline in yield potential of the new plants.

The importance of cocoa to Grenada's economy is widely recognised, and the PRG has said it attaches highest priority to the projects successful implementation.

As a result, the project will assist farmers with new plantings in these ways:

- * Free fertilizers for the young plants in the pre-bearing stages or the first three years after planting.

- * Free pest and disease control for young plants up to three years old.

- * Subsidised tree removal and drainage including soil, wind and water conservation.

- * Training for field staff and cocoa farmers.

Free fertilizers will be supplied to cocoa farmers for application to young plants or new plantings for the first three years, subject to the approval of the cocoa extension field officers and in keeping with the

regulations governing the distribution of cocoa plants to farmers.

At a planting distance of 12 feet by 12 feet, the equivalent of approximately 300 plants per acre, for the first and second year after planting, each plant will receive four ounces of fertilizer twice a year, around June and November. That is a total of eight ounces by 300 trees, or 150 lbs of fertilizers per acre.

On the third year, the rate of application is estimated by multiplying the rate per acre by the total estimated acreage to be planted. Noting

On the third year, the rate of application will be doubled, that is eight ounces of fertilizer for each plant twice a year. That is a total of 16 ounces by 300 plants, or 300 lbs. of fertilizer per acre.

The fertilizer requirement is estimated by multiplying the rate per acre by the total estimated

acreage to be planted. Noting that in the fourth year's fertilizer requirement includes year four planting, plus year three requirement for year two planting, and year one requirement for year three planting.

The total fertilizer requirement as estimated by project plantings between the first and eighth year is calculated at 2.67 tons.

Fertilizer supplied to farmers would be based on the number of live plants in the field prior to fertilizing as varified by the cocoa field extension officers and not on the number of plants distributed.

Cocoa farmers are advised to take precaution against black pod, at this time of the year when the trees are setting young pods.

Field sanitation is important in the form of good weed control, cleaning drains and thinning heavy overhanging shade trees, to reduce excessive moisture and the incidence of black pods.

BRIEFS

CUBAN AIRPORT WORKERS--Work on the terminal for the international airport and the Sandino prefabrication plant, should accelerate with the arrival of 272 Cuban construction workers and materials Wednesday. The equipment and workers came aboard a Cuban boat "La Lima" from Havana. More than 60 men would be working on the Sandino plant, and the rest on the airport terminal. The boat brought two trucks, three generators, two cement mixers, an electrical plant, a light plant, and a welding plant for the airport. It also carried a consignment of tiles and bricks for the terminal building, furniture, and tyres and spare parts for vehicles used on the airport. "La Lima", which leaves on Sunday, brought 1,600 tons of cargo. [Text]
[St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 7 Aug 82 p 2]

CSO: 3025/472

PPP STATEMENT CALLS FOR BIPARTISAN PROBE OF FOOD CRISIS

Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Calling for an all-party body to monitor the escalating crisis in food shortages, the PPP has lambasted the PNC regime for the intolerable situation as regards supplies of essential goods. The Party, in a week-end statement said:--

Shortages of consumer essentials are continuing with no let up. Within this context the People's Progressive Party is of the view that the PNC regime is making no effort to ease these shortages, and like a "bull in a china shop" is pig-headedly going through with its unpalatable policies with intolerable results for all to see. The Party considers it criminal for there to be a shortage of salt. This is a most basic of commodities, and was available even in primitive societies. Today in Guyana it is very scarce, and sells for as much as \$2 per lb.

The PPP observes that the "parallel economy" is thriving in the midst of the shortages in the official economy. Enterprising small traders secure the needed goods from elsewhere and sell at high prices. There is also a thriving smuggling trade across Guyana's frontiers. The people in the meantime are becoming more impoverished and deprived, while a handful of persons closely connected with the ruling party wax rich in the sordid process.

The PPP castigates the regime for generating and maintaining food shortages, and calls for a full market of goods to be made available. It is downright brutal for milk to be in short supply, while large stocks are lying in state bonds on the docks, giving priority to the importation of tanks, rockets and others weapons of war.

Flour is in short supply, and has been virtually banned since March 1982. The shortage of beef has led to higher prices, while chicken is gradually disappearing, accompanied by rising prices. Essentials in acutely short supply at present include: Salt, split peas, blackeye peas, flour, cheese, chowmein, margarine, cereals for children, sugar, bread, milk, garlic, cooking oil. The parallel economy is well stocked with these items however but at very high prices. The only item in apparently unlimited quantity is rum.

Because of the shortage of some key items, many firms long established, are going bankrupt or have closed down to prevent looming bankruptcy. Many industries which cannot obtain inputs are running part time or are closing down, dumping scores of their workers onto the streets already teeming with unemployed persons with no prospect of early re-employment anywhere.

The Party takes this occasion to deplore the continuing unethical position of the KSI outlets, and calls for the closure of these outfits forthwith, in the national interest. They have not served their much-vaunted purpose that of countering the blackmarket. The PPP demands a return to the principle of state outlets, co-ops and the traditional small private-owned neighbourhood shops, catering to the immediate locality. This could stamp out corruption in the distribution system, and bring essentials to the actual doorstep of harassed consumers.

The PNC-owned KSI which normally receives 30% of all essential goods, has also taken over the catering facilities at Timehri International Airport. It has been observed that sweet drinks sell for \$1 at the Airport!

At the recently-held 21st Congress of the Party, the delegates passed a resolution condemning the chronic food shortages and remarked:

'Not only is the regime fully responsible for the food shortage. It is making use of this shortage to exercise arbitrary political leverage for purposes of social blackmail, coercion, intimidation and securing acquiescence to its policies.'

The PPP calls on the regime to immediately set up an All-Party Committee to monitor the commodity situation and reminds those in authority that the economic crisis raging in Guyana could only be served if the political crisis is first solved.

[Editor's Note: The text of the above PPP statement was also published by the GUYANA CHRONICLE of 29 August 1982, pages 8 and 10.]

CSO: 3025/473

'CHRONICLE' REPORTS ON JAGAN QUESTIONS TO PARLIAMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 28 Aug 82 p 4

[Text]

MINORITY LEADER

Dr. Cheddi Jagan wants to know why it is considered necessary for public sector entities and institutions to advertise in the New Nation in view of the availability of the Guyana Chronicle and the radio stations.

In a question directed to Prime Minister Dr. Ptolemy Reid, Dr. Jagan wants to know the cost of such advertisement by each of the corporations etc., and the total cost of all other advertisements for the period January to June 1982.

Notice of eight questions from the Minority to Cabinet Ministers were circulated in Parliament earlier this week.

Dr. Jagan also wants to know if Dr. Reid is aware that members or persons associated with the House of Israel have received military training in Guyana.

"If the Prime Minister is aware of this fact, does he regard the sect as a para-military organisation to whose adherents weapons could be or were issued?" Dr. Jagan is asking.

Cde Narbada Persaud wants Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance Desmond Hoyte

to say what were the financial ceilings established by the IMF in agreements entered into by Guyana with the Fund.

"If these ceilings were not met, will the Vice-President say by how much did the economy fall short on each occasion?" said the question.

Cde Narbada wants the Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection Cde Frank Hope to state whether the certificate of unfitness for human consumption issued last year, which resulted in the seizure and withdrawal from distribution centres, shops and all outlets of Indi Madras Curry Powder, was subsequently rescinded by the Government Analyst.

The question also enquired: "If not, will the Minister say on whose authority was the curry powder subsequently released?"

Cde Clinton Collimore is asking the Minister of Home Affairs Jeffrey Thomas to say when the one-man commission appointed on April 1, 1979 to inquire into the Jonestown murder-suicide of over 900 men,

women and children will commence its hearings.

In another question, Cde Collimore also wants the Home Affairs Minister to say what has been the outcome of the Police inquiry into the death of Ramkisson Saymar while in Police custody in Brickdam Police Station.

Cde Narbada Persaud, in a further question, is asking Vice-President Hoyte for details of the expenditure for the years 1976 through 1980 in respect of block votes (Code Number 092,0898) of the Ministry of National Development.

Cde Ram Karran would like Vice-President for Works, Transport and Housing to furnish the names of contractors who were awarded contracts for \$100000 and over for the years 1978 to 1981 inclusive.

The Vice-President is also being asked to identify: "The contracts that have been completed within the time schedule and original estimate of cost."

Those completed by any other than the original contractor, and the overall total cost, including those completed by direct labour; and Those abandoned.

JAGAN ACCUSES PNC OF PAVING WAY TO CAPITALISM

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Aug 82 p 4

[Text] Opposition Leader Cheddi Jagan told the National Assembly on Thursday that the PNC regime is moving backwards into the arms of imperialism, and is paving the way for the imperialist model of partnership. He was at the time speaking on a Bill to amend the Public Corporations Act with a view to facilitating drastic personnel changes and direction of policy. Dr. Jagan accused the regime of surrendering to World Bank and IMF pressures engineered in the USA.

We indicated that the hidden intention of the regime is to import capitalists from the USA and Europe, and seat them on the Boards of state corporations and entities. In some cases the foreign capitalists will enjoy majority equity and in other cases minority equity. All of this was already spelt out in the Letter of Intent sent by the regime to the World Bank-IMF recently and which is the subject of intense controversy in Guyana.

Thundered Dr. Jagan to the startled PNC MPs in the House: "Do you expect capitalists to run state enterprises and build socialism? And make profits too? This cannot be done, for they are part of the pressures from imperialism which you have been complaining about. You can't expect capitalists to build socialism, they will sabotage the process." At this point he drew an analogy with the experiences of the post-war Labour Government in England which took over from the Churchill war cabinet, and which while nationalising many important industries, placed them into the hands of capitalists to run, with disastrous results both for the British people and the Labour government.

He pointed out that there is too much corruption in the state corporations in Guyana, and too much incompetence. To fill managerial positions he called for not only persons with experience, but "committed" people. "We want representatives of the working class". He also rejected for the "nth time" the PNC assertion that the whole world is in crisis, and explained that it is capitalism which is in crisis and causing the troubles in the world.

Stressing that in some countries where imperialism is destabilising the progressive regime and where there is counter-revolution in varying degrees as in Nicaragua and Angola, he asked: 'Where is the counter-revolution in

Guyana? Who is causing trouble for you? Here it is, the PPP is showing you the way out of the crisis, and you take orders from Wall Street...the imperialists. [as published]

While the gist of Dr. Jagan's speech was that the Bill is really meant to facilitate capitalism, United Force MP Abraham expressed a disagreement with this view. He said as he took the floor, that if he was sure the Bill had anything to facilitate capitalism, he "would give his wholehearted support to it." The whole House laughed.

Minister Frank Hope who piloted the Bill denied that it is to help capitalism. He also denied that the regime is bent on selling off state corporations or handing them over to foreign capitalists to run. He was not very convincing in his denials however.

CSO: 3025/463

BURNHAM REMARKS TO NEWSPAPER WORKERS REPORTED

Analysis of Economic Needs

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Sep 82 pp 4-5

[Text] "Everybody is in trouble, hence the illogic in the call for capitalism, denationalisation and a reversal of our gains must be made clear." This was the dynamic declaration in President Burnham's wide-ranging discussion at Guyana National Newspapers [publishers of the GUYANA and SUNDAY CHRONICLE] where he visited recently. The President defined the mission of all Guyanese at this critical period in our history as "to ensure the survival of our country."

He called for understanding of the facts that (1) the vulnerability of our country to international economic insecurity comes from its smallness and (2) our very smallness makes it possible for us to recover quickly and to withstand the worst ravages of inflation and uncertainty.

Stressing that the mission of all Guyanese is to ensure our country's recovery, the President added that all activities conducive to the maintenance and improvement of our country's well being represented the fulfilment of our mission as Guyanese.

This means that all Guyanese have a contribution to make to the sum total of a successful mission. No level is excluded and the responsibility for a successful mission rests on all.

This is intended as a contribution to a comprehensive understanding of the fact that, while as a small country Guyana is susceptible to international instability, our very smallness is also an aid to rapid recovery. The President supported his statement that "everybody is in trouble" by citing the fact that 14 per cent of Americans are described as living below the poverty line; that in Kenya the showpiece of the Third World capitalism, all capital projects had to be abandoned, that in Tanzania a country with a socialist philosophy similar austerity had to be imposed.

Since "everybody is in trouble" ideological recantation either way would not be an aid to economic recovery.

The aid to recovery lies in everybody's making a contribution, in relevant fields, to the process of recovery. Since everybody is in trouble, political differences expressed in malingering at all levels are fatal to recovery. This is the message which the Guyanese people should understand clearly if all of us are to make contributions to solving the crisis.

Role of Media

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

THE government-owned media must support and serve the owners — the government but should neither lie nor behave as if government has "the last word in Solomonesque wisdom".

This was the message from President Forbes Burnham to Chronicle workers when he attended their Monthly Workers' Meeting recently.

Cde. Burnham said that "when Thomson owned the Graphic, it owned the Graphic and that "if the government owns the Chronicle, it owns the Chronicle."

He stressed: "I have no apologies for that."

The Chronicle must understand, support and explain government's policy, said the President.

This did not mean, he explained, that if there were lines for gasoline or food, the Chronicle must hide those facts. What was important was that such opportunities should be taken to explain to people the reasons for our national problems and how we could overcome them.

Cde. Burnham upheld the right of the government media to criticise malfunctioning in governmental agencies provided that such criticism was consistent

with the relevant government policy.

Referring to an Evening Post critique many years ago on the insanitary condition in a government housing estate, he declared that even if the Post was a government-owned paper, it would still have a responsibility to expose such a scandal.

Earlier, Company Chairman Frank Campbell sought the President's support for a policy of vibrant journalism and suggested that no government functionary should be permitted to victimise a government worker for giving information to the government-owned newspaper.

Cde. Campbell noted that no government worker was punished for giving information to the police and added that the work of the police, the government and the President himself would be less burdensome if the media functioned effectively.

JOINT GUYANA-LIBYA AGRICULTURAL COMPANY RECORDS PROGRESS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Sep 82 p 2

[Text]

THE Guyana-Libyan Arab Agricultural Development Company Limited is one of two companies established under economic co-operation agreements signed between the two countries.

The other company is engaged in the exploitation of Guyana's marine resources.

The significance of the agriculture company, however, is that its objective is to help Libya to meet its food requirements in this period of the hungry eighties.

Managing Director A. Al-Asheg told the Chronicle yesterday the company hopes to reap some 18 000 bags of rice from the first crop planted in the Mahaica-Mahaicony- Abary Scheme where 600 acres were planted in June. Reaping time is October.

Mr. Al-Asheg said 1250 acres have been allocated to the company in the first instance but eventually the company would cultivate between 7 000 and 10 000 acres.

The Managing-Director explained that rice cultivated by the company is to be sold on the export market after the needs of Guyana and Libya have been satisfied, providing the price is right.

The Agriculture company which, like the fishing company, has a capital of (US) \$5 million, also plans to launch a poultry project by year end with the aim of satisfying 75 per cent of Guyana's poultry needs.

The target of the project now under active consideration is to provide 25 000 broiler hatching eggs per week.

In both the companies Guyana has 51 per cent shareholding and Libya has 49 per cent.

Libya and Guyana, established diplomatic relations in 1975 and the Libyan Embassy in Georgetown was opened in 1977. The current charge d'Affaires is Mr. Razack Hassie.

The agreements leading to the setting up of the companies were signed when President Burnham visited Libya in 1980.

CANADIAN MP'S HOLD TALKS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Aug 82 p 8

[Text]

The visiting delegation of 10 Canadian Members of Parliament is due to leave for home this afternoon at the end of two days of informal discussions with Guyanese officials.

Up to late yesterday, the Canadian MPs headed by Liberal Party member Maurice Dupras, were engaged in talks with senior Guyana Government representatives on bi-lateral relations and matters of mutual interest to both Canada and Guyana.

By press time, they had already met Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Mohamed Shahabuddeen; Foreign Affairs Minister, Rashleigh Jackson; Energy and Mines Minister, Hubert Jack; and Finance Minister Sallahuddin.

Guyana's High Commissioner-designate to the Eastern Caribbean, Rudy Insanally, who was mainly responsible for the arrangements of the

visit, said yesterday he expected the programme of meetings to be implemented in the spirit of co-operation, friendship and understanding with which it was formulated.

The Canadian Members of Parliament, accompanied by three advisers, flew into Guyana Sunday night on the final leg of an eight-nation South American tour.

They represent a Sub-Committee mandated by the Canadian House of Commons' Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, to study all aspects of Canada's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Sub-Committee has been holding discussions with Canada-based Caribbean interest groups since it was established in March, 1981, and sent a delegation of legislators to the Caribbean in May this year.

RICE PRODUCERS OFFER AID PROPOSALS TO RICE BOARD

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] A high level delegation from the Rice Producers Association (RPA) held talks with the Guyana Rice Board (GRB) recently and made a number of constructive proposals. The MIRROR understands that these proposals are currently engaging the attention of the cabinet of the PNC regime and that decisions would be taken in due course. The GRB team pronounced in favour of some of the RPA proposals in that they will not only help stabilise the situation in the rice belt, but boost production of the crop.

The main demand of the RPA team was for adequate representation on the GRB and all Regional Boards which may be set up. The ultimate demand of the RPA is for majority control of the GRB.

Other matters raised included the following:

.Encouragement of aerial spraying where it is feasible.

.Bad seed paddy which fails to germinate, creating increased expenses for farmers since no compensation is given.

.Ineffective chemicals in the fields caused by lack of potency.

.Prompt payment to farmers for their crops sold at GRB buying centres. Should payment not be made within 7 days, interest is to be charged on the outstanding sum at the same rate as interest is charged on GRB loans to farmers...13.5% per annum. This was agreed to, but the GRB team assured the RPA team of "prompt payment in future".

.The "I.R." variety of rice would be given full-dose fertiliser henceforth. Formerly this variety was only allocated half-dose by the GRB, despite protests by farmers.

.All rice and paddy seized would be paid for without further delay. So far all the farmers have not been paid as yet despite a previous agreement to that effect.

.Farmers should get a refund on higher fertiliser prices in keeping with the previous price. This means that those farmers who bought fertiliser at

the higher price will have their money refunded. Some farmers already received a refund, while others have not.

On the RPA team were President Budhram Mahadeo, and executives Dalchand, Hardat Rammarine, Jawhar Singh, and Pariag Sukhai; while on the GRB team were General Manager Dundas, Secretary Ramrattal, and Field Service Operations and Entomologist Small.

CSO: 3025/463

LIFE IN ESSEQUIBO DESCRIBED BY 'MIRROR' AS GRIM

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Aug 82 p 2

[Text] MIRROR'S Essequibo correspondent paints a very dim picture of life in that part of Guyana, where poverty and misery loom over the county.

Unemployment is rampant, with few opportunities following the closing down of two major construction companies. During the past week, over 100 youths presented themselves at a rice mill for the few casual and low-paying jobs available.

Since Essequibo is not a cattle rearing area, there is virtually no milk available. Whatever fresh milk is available is sold at one dollar a pint. Now with the complete absence [as published] of any tinned or powdered milk, Essequibo children, except for the few high income residents, get no milk at all. They have to eat rice three times a day. Provisions are scandalously high, with plantains selling at Charity Market at five for four dollars. Black marketing of scarce goods is rampant.

Wastage and negligence are the order of the day. At the Suddie Police Station compound there are seven scrapped vehicles; at the Charity Police Station there are four expensive fibre glass speed boats in the process of deterioration and at Anna Regina Police Compound, an aluminium speed boat was flattened out when some 75 bags of fertiliser were dumped on top of it.

At Adventure, because of negligence in maintaining the koker entire residential and kitchen garden areas are flooded out, about 50 per cent of coconut trees have been severely affected and an entire guava cultivation has been wiped out. PPP Parliamentarian Isahak Basir is calling on the Agriculture Ministry and the Regional Chairman to instal a koker. Mr. Basir declared that the government has failed hopelessly in its agriculture and drainage programme in the Essequibo.

He further observed that the entire Tapacooma project canals are blocked with weeds and all the promises of land to land-hungry farmers have not materialised.

CSO: 3025/463

SHORTAGES PLAGUE CONSUMERS; MALNUTRITION ON RISE

Georgetown MIRROR in English 22 Aug 82 p 4

[Text]

SHORTAGES are continuing apace with painful results already visible. Malnutrition is on the rise and is plainly seen in small children. All essentials are in acutely short supply, but the speculators and smugglers are flourishing thanks to the regime's policies.

Dockside sources told the Mirror that fewer and fewer vessels are entering port Georgetown. Many consignments of cargo for Guyana are left in other ports in the Caribbean and even in Suriname, to be trans-shipped later to Guyana. Shippers argue that it can't pay them to take such small quantities of goods to Guyana.

Other sources close to the regime say that salt will be more scarce than it is. Government recently placed a short order, which on analysis is merely 33 per cent of what the competent authorities wanted to satisfy lo-

cal demand by year end. A plan is afoot to restrict the use of salt for commercial and industrial purposes so as to conserve it for domestic use.

Cement for building purposes is short, but a vessel bringing a limited consignment is expected in port by the end of September 1982.

A large consignment of powdered milk is still in a state warehouse, unable to be uplifted, because payment in hard currency has not yet been facilitated by the regime. Infants are suffering. It is understood that a 5 lb tin of powdered milk now fetches as much as \$70 on the parallel market. Only desperate consumers buy this milk.

Cooking oil is so scarce that ordinary coconut oil is fetching sums reaching \$2 per pint in the city. Split peas is also short and is fetching similar fancy prices on the pavement in the city.

This applies to flour, chowmein, garlic, margarine, etc.

Chicken has taken a big leap upwards, reaching \$8 per lb live and \$7 per lb plucked if and when available. Eggs are already 60 cents each and in some places 75 cents is demanded of the consumer.

Beef is scarce and trending upwards in price, currently being over \$5 per lb, with pork moving up smartly behind. Incredible prices are being asked for fish and shrimps. An informed source said that the reason for the sudden beef shortage is that a big operator who handles the national beef market is involved in a prominent court case, and has therefore not been able to devote all his energies to procuring the necessary flow of beef to the shops and stalls in the municipal markets. His input into the beef market is crucial and vital.

CSO: 3025/463

MINISTER DISPUTES JAGAN CHARGES; RULES OUT POLICY CHANGES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN Guyana Monday (CANA) — A senior minister in Guyana's socialist government has reiterated that it will not bow to foreign pressure to have key sectors of the economy denationalised and returned to private interests.

Consumer Protection Minister Frank Hope made the point during Parliamentary debate on a bill to allow him to assist President Forbes Burnham in his duties as President of the Guyana State Corporation (GUYST).

The GUYST is a group of 25 state-owned businesses.

Replying to criticisms from Opposition Leader Dr. Cheddie Jagan, Mr. Hope said the Burnham administration had an impressive record in putting key sectors of the economy into local hands and it was sticking to this policy.

Dr. Jagan charged that another Bill, increasing government equity to four state agencies by GUY\$475 million (GUY\$1 equal 33 cents US) was brought into force "because of pressure on the government to discontinue nationalisation and introduce the imperialist model of partnership between government and private industry."

At a time when Guyana is facing an acute shortage of

foreign exchange some foreign aid agencies have been trying to persuade the Burnham administration to hand over key sectors such as bauxite to private concerns to get assistance from them.

Of the supplementary funds approved, the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) will get GUY\$225 million, the Guyana Rice Board GUY\$45 million, the Bauxite Company (GUYMINE) GUY\$180 million and the engineering company (GUYCONSTRUCT) GUY\$25 million.

Speaking in support of the provisions, Minister of Finance Salla Huddin said the four agencies were facing financial difficulties due to indebtedness to banks and decreased earnings, and the central government had the right to give them the necessary assistance.

He also said the equity financing did not represent new sources of finance but was rather a shift in responsibility onto the government.

The ceiling limits would be rigorously observed in the Corporation's borrowings and government would monitor the money supply through efficient and effective management and a system of financial accountability, he added.

BRIEFS

ARMS FROM BRAZIL--President Burnham is expected to visit neighbouring Brazil within some weeks, confidential sources disclosed. Talks are now going on pertaining to the timing and arrangements for the visit. Meanwhile, it seems that a visit to Brazil of Guyanese top army personnel has brought results. Unconformed [as published] reports say that Brazil has shipped tanks and rocket launchers to this country towards the end of June last. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 29 Aug 82 p 4]

RICE BOARD IRREGULARITIES--The sale of machinery and other equipment to regional administrations in keeping with the decentralisation of operations of the Guyana Rice Board was suspended recently, because certain irregularities were discovered. Investigations of the irregularities led to the dismissal of a senior official who had been seconded to the GRB to assist in the exercise, a management spokesman explained yesterday. However, new arrangements have been put in place and the sale of the machinery and equipment will resume shortly. In the meantime, the handing over of mills and other aspects of the GRB activities is proceeding according to programme, the spokesman added. From tomorrow the Guyana Agricultural, Cooperative and Industrial Development Bank takes over the multi-million dollar credit to rice farmers' scheme. GAIBANK, in collaboration with some other agencies, will monitor and control the scheme. A number of outposts and branch offices have already been established for farmers to benefit in the normal way from the credit scheme. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Aug 82 p 8]

AMMUNITION PRODUCTION--Guyana has started research into the production of bullets, and already members of the Police Force are being trained for the venture. Police Commissioner Lloyd Barker said yesterday the Force also plans to produce pellets for cartridges which it already produces. An experiment with the production of pellets, has been carried out and the force is now awaiting results. The production of cartridges for shot guns was embarked upon by the Guyana Police Force last December. This was prompted by both a desire for increased knowledge in technology, and the need to save on foreign exchange, Cde. Barker said. The Commissioner said that shot-guns are widely used by farmers in the protection of their crops, and the shortage of cartridges had come at a time when more persons were being encouraged to farm. Machinery at a cost of \$10 000 for the establishment of the cartridge plant has already arrived from the U.S.A.--(GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Sep 82 p 4]

MESSAGE TO LIBYA--President Forbes Burnham has sent a message to the Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Col. Muamar Quadhafi on the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of the Revolution. The message reads: "It is with great pleasure that I send on my behalf and on behalf of my party, the Government and people of Guyana, fraternal greetings and hearty congratulations to you, the government, party and the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the occasion of the 13th Anniversary of the revolution. We continue to follow with great interest your endeavours to create a better way of life for your people. As members of the Non-Aligned Movement and of various international fora I look forward to our continued association as together we seek to provide social, political and economic justice for our peoples and strive for the creation of a just and equitable international order. Let me also take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for your good health and the continued progress and prosperity of your country and people." [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Sep 82 pp 1, 8]

BURNHAM SUIT--President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana Cde. Forbes Burnham is claiming damages for libel from Roman Catholic priest Father A. Morrison, Angal Printing Establishment, Dr. Makepeace Richmond and the CATHOLIC STANDARD Limited. In an action filed in the Supreme Court Registry yesterday by the law firm of Luckhoo & Luckhoo, the President is claiming damages in excess of \$1 500 for libel contained in an article headed "Guyana, Venezuela and the Falklands" appearing under the heading "Letters to the Editor" of the CATHOLIC STANDARD dated May 30, 1982. The President is also claiming an injunction restraining the defendants from further printing or publishing the said or similar libel. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Aug 82 p 1]

EXPANDED GUYSTAC JURISDICTION--President Forbes Burnham has signed an order under the Public Corporations Act bringing Guyana Fisheries Limited and Sanata Textiles Limited under the jurisdiction of Guystac. Both GFL and Sanata are companies in which the controlling interest vests in the State. But they were previously outside the Guystac umbrella. The Public Corporations Order 1982 was dated June 16, 1982. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Aug 82 p 1]

CSO: 3025/474

PAPER SUPPORTS PHOTO-IDENTITY CARDS FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Aug 82 p 14

[Editorial: "A Welcome Move"]

[Text]

The signing of a contract with Thomas de la Rue General Services Ltd. of the U.K. on Tuesday, August 17, by leader of the House, Mr. J.A.G. Smith, who is Minister responsible for elections, for the institution of a photo-identity system for elections along with national registration system for all over 16 years old, appears to be the answer to the motion moved by the Opposition in the House on Tuesday, May 4, dealing with the voter registration aspect of electoral reform.

Since then the PNP has made a number of statements suggesting that the Government had reneged on the question of the photo-identity because, according to the PNP, there had been non-provision of the \$13.2 million requested by the Electoral Commission for the development of the photographing system. We note that the PNP and the JLP are now dedicated to the principle of a photo-identity system. But we remember that in the 60s when the matter first came up, the then PNP was adamant in its rejection of the principle of a photo identification system, and indeed a system was instituted for the 1967 elections against which the PNP strongly protested.

The photograph system was

used again in the 1972 elections, again over the protests of the PNP, both against the principle as well as the manner in which the exercise had been carried out. So the photographic system was abandoned after 1972 when the PNP came to power.

We are glad to see that both parties now agree on the principle of identification by photographs; and on the question of a national registration identification system for all over 16.

The major weakness of the photographic system introduced by the JLP in the 60s was that people had to be enumerated first and then they had to go to be registered and to be photographed. This was a major inconvenience and a major weakness in organization, resulting in hundreds of people who were qualified to vote being left off the list. We believe that if everyone over 16 has been registered and photographed, then it could be much easier at enumeration time for the enumerators simply to ask those who are over 18 to show their identification cards, and enumeration will be a relatively simple exercise.

This is a welcome move in the right direction to safeguard the democratic rights of the people to choose their government.

RURAL BUS OPERATORS CHARGE SNAFU, GET IMPORT LICENSES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Aug 82 p 17

[Text] Thirteen import licence applications for buses and spare parts submitted by members of the Rural Bus, Stage Carriages, and Truck Operators (RUBUS) were yesterday approved by the Trade Administrator's Department. The Thirteen applications which were submitted on August 1 and 13 were from eight different companies.

A news release by the Ministry of Public Utilities and Transport said that the Minister the Hon. Pearnel Charles met on July 30 with a RUBUS delegation which complained about difficulties in getting import licences for replacement and spare parts and unfair competition for minibuses.

Members of RUBUS telegraphed Mr. Charles on Wednesday requesting an urgent meeting with him to discuss the question of licences and police treatment of operators.

Speaking to the GLEANER yesterday, Mr. Charles said he was convinced that the complaints by the RUBUS members about the hold-up in the processing of licences were "justified". So he had intervened on their behalf to the Trade Administrator's Department to expedite the matter.

In response to RUBUS' complaints of police harassment and other problems, Mr. Charles said the Deputy Commissioner of Police had set a meeting for next Wednesday at 10 a.m. with representatives from RUBUS, where these grievances will be addressed.

On July 30, the members of the RUBUS withdrew their services to underscore what they said was the Ministry's failure to deal with their problems. Since then members have expressed their disappointment with the way the Ministry has handled their problems. Explaining its position with respect to these complaints, the Ministry said:

"The delegation (to the July 30 meeting) told that the police had in fact been seizing roboot minibuses in all areas of the island:

"At the meeting the president of the rural Bus Operators, Mr. Arthur Chin, was told to return to the Ministry the following week (the first week in

August) with copies of application which were outstanding, from his organization. [as published] He was also asked to identify those applications from members of RUBUS which were at the Ministry in order that the work of processing these applications could be proceeded with expeditiously.

"Mr. Chin did not return until August 13.

"In the meantime, officers of the Ministry identified six applications from member of RUBUS and these were recommended for approval, awaiting only Mr. Chin's certification that they were in fact RUBUS members. Of the six applications, Mr. Chin supported three.

"Ten additional applications were submitted by RUBUS and these, plus three which RUBUS had supported, were forwarded to the Trade Administrator's Department on August 1.

"Mr. Chin was advised to check with that Department after two weeks. The two weeks period will end on Tuesday, August 31".

Mr. Charles told the GLEANER yesterday that now that the licences were available, it was up to the RUBUS members to collect them.

CSO: 3025/475

SEAGA SEES POSITIVE ECONOMIC SIGNS IN ADDRESS TO BANKERS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Aug 82 pp 1, 26

[Text] Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga said yesterday that the economy was now turned in a positive direction, but the journey back to former buoyancy "will be a gradual and difficult process."

The Prime Minister was opening the 19th meeting of Latin American Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank at the Rose Hall Beach Club Hotel in Montego Bay.

The meeting, being chaired by Mr. Seaga, is reviewing international economic issues prior to the annual meetings of the World Bank and IMF scheduled to begin in Toronto on September 6.

According to a Jamaica House release, Mr. Seaga told the delegates that the positive results achieved by Jamaica in several areas should encourage other countries facing pressing economic problems to move ahead with structural adjustment policies even in the present economic climate.

"At the end of 1981", Prime Minister Seaga said, "we managed to achieve a per cent growth in the economy--the first positive growth after eight years of consecutive decline during which we lost 20 percent of GDP; the rate of inflation was reduced in 1981 from an annual average of 23 per cent during the period 1973-80 to 4.6 percent. We were able to reduce the deficit on current account to 1.2 per cent--from an annual average of 4 per cent and may wipe it out completely by the end of this fiscal year ahead of target. Capital formation jumped from an annual average of 6 percent in the 1973-80 period to 26 per cent in the year 1981/82."

The Prime Minister said that Jamaica recognized the need to address structural defects in its economy and in spite of the fact that these defects were exacerbated by eight years of decline, and that we were operating against the background of adverse world economic conditions, our options in terms of the social and political imperative which confronted us were such that we had to begin the structural adjustment process while simultaneously stabilising the economy and restoring services.

"We have consequently, since 1981, introduced fiscal and monetary policies to halt the downward slide in the economy, reduce inflation, reverse the

overall balance of payments deficit, increase investment and capital formation, eliminate the current account deficit on the fiscal budget, and reduce unemployment. We have also begun a process of redirecting the manufacturing sector from an import substitution to an export oriented one, and to bring the agricultural sector up to a level where it can fully exploit the export potential both of its traditional and non-traditional products."

Mr. Seaga discussed the serious pressures that the combination of the recession in the economies of the developed world, the high cost of energy and increased interest rates was imposing on the less developed countries. He mentioned the increasing role being played by the international lending agencies as prime sources of finance for these countries, including structural adjustment lending introduced by the World Bank to help borrowing countries expand their productive capacities. But he cautioned that each case should be treated separately: "We agree that there is need for adjustment if fundamental imbalances in our economies are to be corrected," the Prime Minister said, "and here we should perhaps remind ourselves that the term structural adjustment embodies a range of policies designed to bring about the more efficient performance of an economy by removing structural defects, by changing the direction of the economy, or by transforming the basis of its operation. It might be any one or any combination of these. The ultimate objective is the maximization of production and increased foreign exchange earnings."

"What is certain", the Prime Minister continued, "is that structural adjustment is an exceedingly complex process, requiring an exquisite sensitivity to the peculiarities of each economy--both at the macro and micro level. No programme of economic engineering is ever simple. Given the special complexities of structural adjustment, the World Bank and other international lending agencies must approach each economy as a separate case applying prescriptions suitable to each that are not arrived at by predetermined formulae no matter how theoretically appropriate such formulae may appear to be".

The Prime Minister said that the less developed non-oil producing countries were still seeking solutions to the increases in the cost of energy and in the levels of inflation as well as the cost of capital in industrial countries. These problems, over which the developing countries had no control, were further aggravated by the continuing recession in the major economies which are causing contraction in the export earnings of the L.D.C.s due to lack of demand, and in bilateral and private investment flows.

But these constraints, Mr. Seaga said, should not tempt the less developed countries, to postpone structural adjustment programmes in the hope that the world economy will recover. "If we wait for the storms to subside before plugging the leaking holes the ship may well flounder," he said.

"The fact is, structural adjustment, is a necessity for the viability of small oil-importing economies in today's world. Cheap oil and cheap money will never return. In their absence it is a matter of survival not to wait for the impossible but to get on with the job of readjusting our own economies

to increase earnings to overcome the hardships of today and provide opportunities for our expanding labour force."

The Prime Minister stressed that the key to making structural adjustment policies work was to be found in a closer and more creative collaboration between the international lending agencies and the less developed countries, to ensure that the prescriptions attached to their loans "have a reasonable chance of restoring the patient countries to health rather than aggravating the illness."

The aim must always be, he said, "to assist our countries to cope with international developments by designing policies which address the domestic economic realities within the context of the changing international economy... While a particular set of policies could alleviate the balance of payments problems of a country, such policies cannot be regarded as appropriate if they result in economic decline and increased unemployment."

As he saw it, the Jamaican economy was now turned in a positive direction," [as published] but the journey back up hill to former levels of buoyancy which we have achieved in the past will be a gradual and difficult process."

Speaking of Jamaica's industries, Mr. Seaga said: "The country's largest foreign exchange earner, bauxite and alumina, which accounts for some 70 per cent of total export earnings has seen a dramatic decline due to lack of world demand for aluminum associated with recession in the industrial countries."

"Tourism", while also affected by international recession had also been showing renewed strength with 20 per cent growth last financial year; and the manufacturing sector, though not a large net earner of foreign exchange is beginning to heed the drive to increase exports.

Approximately 100 delegates, including World Bank and IMF Governors from Latin America, Spain, and the Philippines and their delegations, as well as a number of observers, are attending the conference which ends today. It follows two days of meetings at the Rose Hall Hotel of Central Bank Governors from Latin America and Spain.

CSO: 3025/464

NEW POLICE CHIEF INTERVIEWED ON WEAPONS, GANJA

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 29 Aug 82 p 15

[Interview with Police Chief Joe Williams by Wilton Dyer; date and place not given]

[Text]

Mr. Williams was replying to a question about his reaction to the controversy surrounding his appointment.

"I have no comment to make. I treat such criticisms of my appointment with the silence it deserves. I am aiming at doing the job as best as I can," he stated, adding the Biblical verse: "by their fruits ye shall know them".

The Peoples National Party in criticising Mr. Williams appointment had questioned whether he would be able to perform impartially because of what the party said was self-avowed partisan utterances.

Mr. Williams also declined to comment on the criticism raised by the Police Federation about his appointment on a contract which the Federation saw as stifling promotion. Two former Police Commissioners, Mr. Basil Robinson and Mr. Desmond Campbell, were kept on, on contracts. At the age of 60 on December 24 last, which is the Force's retirement age, Mr. Williams was retained as Deputy Commissioner - but the age is no problem to him.

"I feel I have a lot of resale value. I am not impaired, physically. I am right there. My interest has not waned. I will do everything possible to motivate those under my command to give them the best possible guidelines from the training I have received locally and overseas".

Will get tougher...

With a reputation as a "fearless and tough cop" carved out of the mid-sixties when he was in charge of the traditionally violent Western Kingston Division, Mr. Williams, familiarly known as "Mass Joe", promises no respite for gunmen.

Leaning his burly frame forward he warns: "I intend to be tougher with the gunmen". Aware of the responsibility and the confining administrative nature of his new office, Mr. Williams, nevertheless, plans to be an active Commissioner and be in the frontline as much as possible.

"I am a leader and the example should good for the Force", he says.

He has no misgivings about his firm, no-nonsense style. "I get results with it. I have been able to get a lot out of men who were dubbed recalcitrant, indifferent or complacent".

This approach has served him well in the early gun-violence days of the City's west end. He recalled that he was able to get some really "rough desperadoes" hurrying to his head station at Denham Town as soon as he passed the word.

This, he explained, helped to cut down the risk of confrontation in which innocent bystanders or policemen might get shot. "It really worked," Mr. Williams said, dismissing as "over-done" most of the stories going the rounds about his prowess and exploits against bad men in those days.

Priorities

"Will you still be in charge of Operations Squad?" he was asked. "No, as the Commissioner I will have to be concentrating on other matters, but I will maintain a close interest in the squad".

He defended the work of the operations Squad, countering with "not true at all", charges that the squad operated in a partisan way and resorted to unlawful practices.

He cited the case of an active politician who came to the squad's headquarters at 230 Spanish Town Road for interrogation. "The politician left pleased," Mr. Williams said. "The squad is doing a very useful job," he added.

As to the priorities in what he sees as the challenging job of being the man at the helm of the Force, Mr. Williams says: "Controlling crime and building up the Police public relations are my top priorities".

Problems

Noting that although violent crime had declined, there was still "much to do in getting right on top of it", Mr. Williams mentioned problems which the police were experiencing, such as lack of modern crime fighting equipment, and immobility in some cases.

Recognising budgetary constraints, Mr. Williams disclosed that he would be working on strategies to deal with the crime problem.

He is strongly in favour of a move to get closer rapport and understanding with the community at all levels: schools, youth clubs, churches, associations and service clubs.

This would also help in establishing good relationship between the Force and the public, which needed to be "built up". He regretted that people were not coming forward with information as they should. This was retarding the anti-crime fight in the area of intelligence gathering.

"We have to educate the public that they must have confidence in the police, and must view the police as their protector. We have to make the police realise that they are part of the community, that is where we come from. We need each other".

Mr. Williams also voiced his concern about police brutality, commenting: "We are going to make an improvement in this area".

Ganja trade

The police also had to "step up action against the 'nefarious ganja exporter'". Asked about the widespread feeling that there was increasing police participation in the "trade", Mr. Williams remarked: "Anytime we have the evidence, we are going to deal with them".

"We are going by the law books; friendship does not count. Whoever is

involved, must face the consequences of transgression of the law".

In his 38th year as a policeman, Mr. Williams, who joined the Force when he became "turned-off" as a school teacher, has had his disappointments, about which he prefers not to elaborate.

"I have had my disappointments. I have taken my blows. There is no point in opening up old sores". On his eleven years without promotion, remaining at the rank of Senior Superintendent from 1969-1980, he states: "I bore it, I am not bitter".

Mr. Williams feels that the training he has received in the Force has made him a "very rounded policeman, ready to tackle any problem which may come up". His overseas training stints on senior officer courses, has taken him to the London Metropolitan College, the Scottish Police College and the International Police Academy, Washington, D.C.

Local courses have widened his grasp of management and ethics. He described himself as a "reasonable person with no frills". A stern disciplinarian who operates by the law he likes to see policemen: alert, neat, courageous and professional.

Policemen should socialise but not to the extent where professionalism is tempted", he says.

Dissatisfied

With 19 transfers in his career, Mr. Williams is dissatisfied with aspects of the present transfer system where it creates hardship on police personnel being transferred, especially in terms of basic requirements like proper housing arrangements. He is unhappy with the "wasting of talent" by transferring someone to an area for which he is not best suited.

This and the lot of rural policemen will get his attention, he promises.

But the new Commissioner is not all wrapped up in police work. Social activity also occupies a lot of his time. A diligent lodge man and active member of the Lions Club of Kingston, Mr. Williams finds time to indulge himself in the "cultured pursuit" of playing the violin. A first violinist for many years, he plays regularly with the Madden's Philharmonic Strings at a variety of functions, which has also taken him overseas. He also reads voraciously with a penchant for classics.

Happily married to Faye (nee Palmer), he is the father of two daughters and a son, ages 32, 27 and 18.

Concluding the interview, Mr. Williams threw out an appeal to three elements who will be critical to his performance.

To the public: he asked for greater interest and understanding of the police.
"Bring to my attention any acts of

indiscipline or any suggestions which you feel can improve the Force. I am open to them".

To the Force: "Serve the people well. Do the best for them".

To the gunmen: "Put down your guns, hand them in and stop the nonsense".

CSO: 3025/475

COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED TO ASSESS BANANA INDUSTRY NEEDS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Aug 82 pp 6, 7

[Article by Ivorall Davis]

[Excerpts] Declaring that the Christiana area needed immediate and specific plans to revitalize the banana industry of that region, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, has set up a committee with himself as Chairman, to meet on a monthly basis to ensure that whatever is needed to get the industry in the area "back on its feet" is done with purpose and determination.

Venue was the Christiana Secondary School and a special meeting organised by the Christiana Area Council of the All-Island Banana Growers Association, and presided over by Mr. Clovis Stewart, Deputy Chairman of the Council. AIBGA Chairman Keith Francis was present and participated, as well as Dr. Marshall Hall, Executive Chairman of the Banana Company of Jamaica.

The auditorium was jam-packed with angry, hostile-looking banana farmers and their supporters. The score of representatives which spoke were frank and sometimes vociferous about their problems. In the words of Chairman Stewart: "The monumental problems in the banana industry in this area is exemplified by the number of growers we have at this meeting, Mr. Minister."

The growers' All-Island leader Keith Francis said among other things: "The problems are grave... No one can escape them...communications are bad, but we have got to find a way to lick them..."

Basis of Truth

Against this background, Dr. Broderick told the meeting: "I am speaking to you about your industry in this area on the basis of truth.... You have said that your livelihood is threatened; that you face extinction, bankruptcy, face difficulties in maintaining family and home, and of sending your children to school, of giving mothers their clothes and of taking care of your responsibilities.

"It is that interest that makes you hungry, and hungry for the truth about an industry on which you depend. The banana industry in Jamaica is a

serious thing of which the Government is mindful...so the industry will survive." the Minister stated.

"One thing that we have to do is to have the committee that is going to meet with me, the Minister, nobody else, on which we're going to have Mr. Keith Francis, Chairman of AIBCA; Dr. Marshall Hall, Chairman of the Banana Company and the growers of this area through their MP Minister of State, Mr. Len Kirby; Mr. Brascoe Lee and representatives of the area, to sit on the committee which I am going to chair.

"We are going to talk about immediate and specific plans for this area, Area 5," the Minister said.

Dr. Broderick, after saying that all concerned had to talk positively, said: "No sensible and responsible government seeks to displace people; no sensible and responsible government seeks to create more unemployment, no sensible and responsible government would seek to destroy an economy, to destroy the lives of people."

He then urged the growers to go back into their fields and look around, select the best banana suckers, that is those which produce exportable fruits, and begin replanting. He urged them not to wait for any government suckers, and he assured them that the Government and his Ministry were doing everything in their power to ensure that the industry would survive and that in the end they would be happy, satisfied farmers.

The angry-looking audience was beaming at the end of Dr. Broderick's speech, and at the urge of a participant sang lustily: "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow."

CSO: 3025/475

NEW BILL STRENGTHENS POLICE POWERS AGAINST CROP THEFTS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Aug 82 pp 1, 13

[Text] Wide-ranging powers of search, arrest, seizure of goods and vehicles are to be vested in agricultural wardens and the Police when the Bill to enact the Praedial Larceny (Prevention) Act, which was tabled in the House of Representatives yesterday, becomes law by the end of September.

The bill was taken through its First and Second Readings yesterday and referred to a Select Committee of the House comprising the Ministry of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick (Chairman); the Hon. Winston Spaulding, Minister of National Security and Justice; the Hon. J. A. G. Smith, Leader of the House and Minister of Labour and the Public Service; Dr. Horace Chang, Mr. Derrick Sangster, Mr. Anthony Spaulding and Mr. Horace Clarke.

The bill provides comprehensive legislation governing offences of praedial larceny, larceny of livestock and fish. The agricultural wardens to be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and be under the command of the Commissioner of Police are to "act in aid of the Police in the prevention and detection of such offences" specified under the Act.

Stiff penalties--ranging up to three years imprisonment and fines of up to \$3,000--for the commission of praedial larceny offences are provided in the amendment of relevant provisions of the Judicature (Resident Magistrates) Act, the Larceny Act and the Unlawful Possession of Property Act.

The Malicious Injuries to Property Act and the Trespass Act are also to be amended by the Praedial Larceny (Prevention) Act, to increase the penalties for offences that may be committed before or "concurrent with praedial larceny or larceny of livestock or fish."

The Commissioner of Police shall have the right, if he thinks fit, to assign agricultural wardens to police stations where they shall be subject to the order of the Officers and Sub-officers of the Jamaica Constabulary Force or the persons in charge of police stations.

The duties of the agricultural wardens under the Act shall be to detect the commission of offences under the Act such as: simple larceny, larceny of

cattle, killing animals with intent to steal, larceny of dogs, taking or destroying fish, taking animal without consent of owner, stealing, rooting up, breaking, etc., fences, posts, gates, etc.

Under the sections of the Malicious Injuries to Property Act which will be covered by the Praedial Larceny (Prevention) Act, the agricultural wardens may apprehend or summon before Justices of the Peace persons destroying or damaging trees in a garden, damaging plants in a garden, causing injury to cultivated roots or plants, fences, walls, etc.; killing or wounding cattle and animals other than cattle; administering drugs to animals in certain cases.

Action can also be taken against trespassers on cultivated or enclosed land; trespass for the purpose of destroying trees; passing along private roads during the night with a gun without the consent of the owner of the land; entering on land with firearms for the purpose of hunting, etc.

Under the provisions of the Praedial Larceny (Prevention) Act embracing the Unlawful Possession of Property Act, Agricultural Wardens may apprehend "a suspected person liable to be brought before a Resident Magistrate; a person who refuses or neglects to disclose or permit inspection of articles, as well as assaults of constables, authorised persons and their assistants.

THE SECTION DEALING WITH POWERS OF SEARCH provides the following:

"If any member of the Constabulary Force of or above the rank of corporal is satisfied that there is reasonable cause to believe that any stolen agricultural produce, livestock or fish is concealed in any house, premises, land or building, he may give directions in writing to an agricultural warden or a constable to enter and search such house, land or building, and any person who refuses to permit such entry or search, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction in a Resident Magistrate's Court to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars and in default of payment thereof to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

"Where an agricultural warden or a constable carries out any directions issued in accordance with subsection (1) he shall produce the instrument containing the same to the owner or occupier of the house, premises, land or building...if required by the owner or occupier to do so."

The section goes on to empower any agricultural warden, or constable, without warrant, to stop any person

or vehicle suspected to be carrying stolen agricultural produce, livestock or fish and search such person or vehicle and the driver or any person conveyed therein...

Property may also be forfeited if the court which convicts a person for an offence under the Act, is satisfied that the property was used for the purpose "of committing, or facilitating the commission of the offence...or was intended to be used for that purposes."

It is also an offence under the Act for any person who is not an agricultural warden to have in his possession any clothing, accoutrement or other appointments furnished for the use of agricultural wardens and cannot account satisfactorily for such possession. Personation of an agricultural warden is also an offence punishable with a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to one year.

THE ACT ALSO PROVIDES for convicted persons to be placed under special police supervision and in addition be required to remain within their residences from sunset until sunrise during the period specified by the order of the court. Persons so ordered may not remove from such residences without the written authority of the Officer or Sub-officer in charge of the relevant police stations.

Agricultural wardens will be appointed in the first instance for a period of three years and provision is made for compensation for injuries received in the execution of duty and compensation to widows and children.

The Memorandum of Objects and Reasons states:

"Large scale acts of praedial larceny and larceny of livestock and fish have been having a negative effect on the development of agriculture and fisheries and are acting as a disincentive to agricultural expansion. Farmers for some time now have been experiencing considerable losses as a result of larceny of this kind. The present legislation that governs these offences and their detection are now inadequate to deal with the problem."

BRIEFS

SEIZURE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS--The police raided premises at 8 Wexford Road, Kingston 3, last week Friday and seized several passports and passport forms, laminating sheets, such as are used in passports and United States issued birth certificates, some of which were altered. The GLEANER understands that an Immigration Officer's "Landed" stamp and tax departure tickets were also seized by the police. The P.I.C. confirming that the raid was carried out told the GLEANER that a woman was detained for questioning but was released pending evaluation of some of the seized items. [Text]
[Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 28 Aug 82 p 1]

CSO: 3025/475

BRIEFS

SIMMONDS WARNING--Basseterre, St. Kitts, Thursday, (CANA)--St. Kitts-Nevis Premier, Dr. Kennedy Simmonds now in the midst of a country wide campaign to promote plans for the twin island state's independence next year, has issued a strong warning here to people who have been disrupting his public meeting. Following two reports of disorderly conduct last Sunday and Monday he said that offenders "will be severely dealt with." In one of the incidents, barrister at law, Constance Micham was struck on the face with a stone in a village here. She was sitting in her car speaking to someone when she was hit. A woman, whose name has not been disclosed has been arrested in connection with this incident. A man was taken away by police from a meeting in Basseterre for reported disorderly conduct. Both meetings were organised by the Government to carry its independence proposals contained in a parliamentary White Paper to the public for debate. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Aug 82 p 3]

CSO: 3025/476

AMBITIOUS PLAN AFOOT TO REVIVE AILING BANANA INDUSTRY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Aug 82 p 17

[Text]

CASTRIES, Mon:

THE ST LUCIA'S banana growers have embarked on an aggressive programme aimed at putting the island's vital but debt-ridden industry back on a firm financial footing in two year's time. The full extent of the industry's indebtedness was only made public in June, when Prime Minister John Compton delivered his new Government's first fiscal budget to parliament.

Compton then described the industry — which accounts for some 40 per cent of St Lucia's total exports — as being "on the verge of bankruptcy," with 9.3 million in debt.

According to St Lucia Banana Growers' Association Chairman Harry Atkinson, this figure has since been reduced by just over one million dollars.

Banana exports from St Lucia are currently running at more than 30 per cent over last year's shipments, but the industry continued to be plagued by problems, mainly the lack of finance to buy fertilisers and other inputs. However, industry officials say help is on the way.

BIG RISE

The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) last month gave conditional approval to a loan of \$945,000 to St Lucia to finance the purchase of inputs.

According to Atkinson, the Association's main priority for this year will be to ensure that there is a constant and adequate supply of inputs available to growers to produce a substantial increase in banana production. The 1982 production target has been estimated at 45,000 tons.

The Association is currently levying four cents

per pound on all bananas sold with the money going towards the repayment of debts. In addition, according to Atkinson, it has set up a price support fund, a sinking fund and an inputs trading fund at a local commercial bank.

According to Atkinson, the Association's plans envisage a total wipe out of all trade debts within two years.

He added: "This we hope to accomplish by decentralising the existing expensive banana boxing operations, reducing wastage of cartons and other packaging material, reducing loss of fruit purchased but not sold, the cost of disease control as well as the overall cost of administration."

Atkinson revealed that banana boxing operations undertaken by the Association were costing 2.6 cents per pound, while similar operations by growers, privately, were costing 1.75 cents per pound.

He added: "Our plans are to operate all the association's boxing plants as if they were private ones, controlled by carefully selected banana growers."

This measure, Atkinson said, would save the Association about \$1.25 million next year.

He also announced plans to cut administrative

costs, saying: "The Association appears to have reached a stage in its development where priority was given to providing employment facilities for the general public rather than for service to banana growers."

CASH FLOW

Growers have received nothing from the industry for the past two years. The people who do best are the employees of the Association, Geest Industries and the Windward Islands Banana Association (Winban)."

Atkinson also announced measures to reduce wastage in the industry's ground spraying operations which cost \$1.5 million in labour alone last year.

According to officials here, the Association's financial strategy is intended to record a small surplus on its revenue account, start repayment of old liabilities and enable the Association to stand on its own.

The Association says the cash flow forecast for next year showed the revenue account will be in surplus at \$2.7 million, remaining old liabilities will be paid off and the full fertiliser requirements will be met with a small surplus at the bank (Cana-Reuter).

BRIEFS

AID FROM TAIWAN--Kingstown, Wed., (Cana): St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Taiwan have signed a technical assistance agreement under which the Taipei Government will assist this country in developing its agriculture and other agro-related industries. Minister of Trade Vincent Beache said Taiwan will help St. Vincent develop aqua-culture and agro-industry. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Sep 82 p 5]

CSO: 3025/464

LOCAL GROUPS WIN RIGHT TO MONITOR FRENCH COMPANY'S WORK

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Local professionals in the construction industry have won the right to monitor the building of the Mount Hope Medical Complex by the French engineering firm, Sodeteg.

This came out of a meeting held Wednesday involving the Ministerial Review Committee (MRC) the Mount Hope Medical Task Force and the Joint Consultative Council made up of representatives of the Trinidad Manufacturers Association, General Contractors Association, Association of Professional Engineers, Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects, and the Quantity Surveyors Association.

Wednesday's session under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Errol Mahabir, was held following strong complaints against Sodeteg by the local groups, particularly with regard to the implementation of the medical complex contract.

Mr. Emile Elias, a spokesman for the group said yesterday: "We had a very interesting and positive meeting. We are convinced that MRC and the Task Force share our concern about what is going on at Sodeteg.

"In fact, the Task Force and the Ministerial Review Committee confirmed that they had received disturbing reports about the attitude of Sodeteg towards nationals of Trinidad and Tobago.

"The Task Force, which is comprised of dedicated and hardworking doctors held in high esteem, also expressed severe reservations about Sodeteg's attitude in many areas."

As Advisers

Mr. Elias, head of the Trinidad and Tobago's largest construction firm, added that because of the document presented by the professionals on Wednesday, there was a clear need for follow-up action.

He explained: "It was decided by the MRC that the local professionals monitor all phases of the construction of the complex to ensure Sodeteg's strict compliance with the conditions of the contract.

"We will act as advisors and a meeting is to be held very shortly involving all three parties with Sodeteg."

This "face to face" confrontation, Mr. Elias said, which would be continued on a monthly basis, would also have representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Customs Department.

Presence of the Ministry's representatives is to ensure that Sodeteg stops the unnecessary importation of French goods into Trinidad for the project.

Asked how the locals would monitor the prestigious project Mr. Elias, former President of the General Contractors Association, said: "Very simple man, very simple. Sodeteg has to produce evidence of all that is going on. We will be setting monthly targets.

"There is no way they can expect to continue treating us with that kind of disrespect in our country. They have to come good or else.

"The council is also firm that they should no longer import French goods when we have the materials here.

Satisfied

Reiterating that the council would be "aggressive" in its monitoring role, Mr. Elias, noted that Sodeteg would have to buy locally-available materials and utilise local technical expertise "regardless of previous commitment they have made contrary to provisions in the contract."

Asked if he still held the view that Mr. Mahabir had defended Sodeteg in a parliamentary statement two weeks ago, Mr. Elias said: "We came away Wednesday satisfied with the pledges made by the Ministerial Review Committee and the Task Force. Mr. Mahabir was supportive of the council's document.

CSO: 3025/466

TEXT OF CHAMBERS' INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS TO NATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 31 Aug 82 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers has again extended the hand of friendship to Tobago and called for mutually-acceptable solutions to the misunderstandings which he saw as purely temporary in nature.

In his Independence Day message, Mr. Chambers asked for mutual respect and trust, and a joint resolution to create an atmosphere in which solutions may be achieved.

The Prime Minister has also recognised that the country would be called upon to make important adjustments in the 1980s, hence his appointment of a Task Force under Mr. William Demas.

This Force had as its tasks the re-appraisal of economic development policies and strategies of the past, and the preparation of a public sector investment programme and a long-term multi-sectoral plan for the country.

Caroni (1975) Ltd, he said, could become the nation's key food producer and processor.

Mr. Chambers's speech, delivered in a nationwide address and released to the Press, is as follows:

Fellow citizens, wherever you may be, I welcome this first opportunity to address you as your elected Prime Minister on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the birth of our Nation. While it is fitting that we hold celebrations to mark the event--and believe me there is a great deal about which we can and should celebrate--I consider it appropriate, on this occasion, to inject into our celebrations some sobering reflections. My starting point is the troublesome state of the international economy and its implications for us in Trinidad and Tobago.

World Recession

Within recent times there has been a great deal of public discussion on what has been described as the world recession, and I believe, it is just as well that public awareness of the international environment is raised. In point

of fact, my friends, what we have been witnessing and experiencing is best expressed in the following brief passage taken from the 1982 Report of the World Bank:

"In the early 1970s, after more than two decades of rapid development, the world economy entered a period of transition. It became necessary to adjust to inflation, the realignment of currencies following the collapse in 1971 of the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates, the 1972-'74 food crisis, the 1973-'74 quadrupling of oil prices, and the deceleration of growth in oil supplies. These factors led to a short, sharp recession in 1974-'75. Then, after three years of recovery, a further adjustment was required as oil prices doubled in 1979-'80, exchange and interest rates became unusually volatile. The recession these events induced has been unexpectedly prolonged."

In other words, the "world recession" now being talked about in Trinidad and Tobago is not a new phenomenon in the sense of a sudden and recent event or set of events. The issue is now surfacing for us because over the past seven years while many countries, developed and developing, were feeling the full effects of the unstable world economic situation, we in Trinidad and Tobago were literally insulated from its worst consequences, by virtue of the cushioning provided by the policies and actions of Government whereby the enhanced revenues--the petro dollars--were used to reduce the cost of living, among other things. The net result is that the population has been enabled to enjoy:

.Highly subsidised public housing;

.Public transportation fares and prices of gasoline, among the lowest in the world;

.Relatively cheap taxi fares ancillary to the public transportation system;

.Public education, virtually free or at minimal cost;

.Public hospital services and care, at no cost;

.Electricity, telephone, water supplies and port facilities at wholly uneconomic rates;

.Domestic agriculture and fishing, highly subsidised, including the rates of lending by the Agricultural Development Bank;

.Cooking gas (L.P.G.) at highly subsidised prices;

.Imported food exempt from duty;

.Building materials also exempt from customs duty;

.Income tax reliefs which removed a substantial body of citizens from the tax net and lightened the incidence of taxation on others;

.Enhanced benefits for our pensioners and senior citizens.

Against Tide

In support of this I am sure that you will find it enlightening to know that the subsidies provided in an effort to reduce the cost of living leapt from \$28 million in 1973 to \$1,300 million in 1981.

In addition to these expenditures, public sector investment outlays on social infrastructure and industrial projects enabled Trinidad and Tobago to reach a stage of almost full-employment and literally to "swim against the tide" after 1975, achieving in the process rapid and vigorous economic growth. It was, however, inevitable that the marked deterioration in the economic performance of both developed and developing countries and the softening of oil prices would affect the momentum attained by our country to date.

It was in the fullest recognition that Trinidad and Tobago would be called upon to make important adjustments in the 1980s that I announced the appointment of the Task Force under Mr. William Demas to re-appraise economic development policies and strategies of the past, to prepare a public sector investment programme and a long term multi-sectoral plan for Trinidad and Tobago. That Task Force is at work and on completion of its labours the Government will be in a better position to set this process of adjustment in motion.

JOINT PROPOSALS

In the interim, while this is not the occasion to deal with the specifics of economic and financial policy, three recent decisions of Cabinet are of sufficient significance to be brought to your attention. They relate to food and agriculture; industrial development and export development:

I — Caroni (1975) Limited and the Food and Agriculture Corporation have been requested to submit joint proposals for meeting the requirements of the School Nutrition Programme from local resources as far as this is possible. Any success achieved in this effort will clearly point the way to Caroni's new role as the nation's key food producer and processor.

II — Approval has been given for the initiation by the Industrial Development Corporation and the Ministry of

Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs of a programme for the development of the engineering and capital goods sector as a major industrial thrust of the eighties and beyond. More will be said about this on a more appropriate occasion. Suffice it for the present to indicate that this programme is expected to provide, among other things, additional depth and spin-off for the energy sector as well as deepening the structure of manufacturing in the non-oil sector. A successful capital goods sector will make a very significant contribution to putting Trinidad and Tobago on the road to self-sustained growth and technological development.

III — The report of the Warner Committee on the question of an appropriate incentive regime and institutional supports required to stimulate exports from the non-oil sector which was released for public information not very long ago has now been approved with minor modifications.

On the general question of the management of the country's financial resources the Ministry of Finance and Planning has been resolutely resisting all requests for supplementary provisions in 1982, and Ministries are being made to find a source of savings in their 1982 budget allocations or to rearrange their priorities including suppressing, if necessary, or delaying already approved services or projects.

It is therefore not without significance that to date the

only supplementary approved by Parliament was for the purpose of meeting the increased cost of wages in the public sector, as a result of agreements concluded with the unions concerned.

NOT ENOUGH

But my fellow citizens, it is not enough for your Government to recognise the need for adjustments in a rapidly changing economic environment, and embark on the desired changes, but, in accordance with our stated policy of people's participation and our commitment to bringing the people into the development process, an inescapable responsibility develops on each and everyone of us to accept that these adjustments are necessary and will have to be made. In this national endeavour we must keep foremost in our minds—

1. The preservation and enhancement of our national unity;

2. The need to avoid the temptation to succumb to the pessimism which surrounds the prevailing international recession;

3. That courage, fortitude and determination will be demanded when we are called upon to implement the prescriptions which will undoubtedly come from the Demas Task Force.

In the final analysis my friends, what is at stake is the maintenance in place of what we have and what today's celebrations are about. I refer particularly to the freedoms guaranteed and enshrined in our Constitution,

a Judiciary absolutely divorced from Executive interference and a fair measure of progress and prosperity achieved in an atmosphere of reasonable peace and calm.

Specifically to our brothers and sisters in Tobago, may I say in all sincerity that the hand of friendship which I extended to you remains outstretched; and I remain fully committed to the search for lasting and mutually acceptable solutions to the present misunderstandings which I am convinced are purely temporary in nature. All I ask is that we respect and trust each other and resolve to jointly strive for the creation of an atmosphere in which these solu-

tions may be more easily achieved.

And so my fellow citizens, at a time when we are facing an international environment which is tending to weaken rather than support our development (efforts), when management of the economy and policy-making will be dominated by the need to adjust, and when new initiatives will be required in response to critical challenges, my call to you the people of Trinidad and Tobago is for national unity, national resolve and love of Nation.

This is a time when we must work assiduously for the creation and careful nurturing of a new climate of co-operation, remembering al-

ways that when we lay stress on individual rights there must be a corresponding emphasis on personal discipline and social responsibility. Such discipline must manifest itself in thoughts, actions, tastes and above all expectations.

Finally my friends, let us not succumb to self-denigration nor doubt in ourselves; we must accept that together and only together will we be able to surface above the challenges of the times and face the world in confidence.

My family joins me in wishing each and everyone of you a joyful but reflective Independence.

CSO: 3025/465

TOBAGO ASSEMBLYMEN REPLY TO CHAMBERS' OLIVE BRANCH

Robinson, Elder Differences

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Sep 82 p 3

[Excerpt]

SCARBOROUGH:

"IF A hand of friendship is extended to me, I will not reject it... provided it is the hand of sincere friendship...the hand of EQUALITY. If the friendship is for human liberation and human progress, I'm with you."

So said the Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, on Independence Day as he addressed scores of persons who journeyed to Fort George, Scarborough, to witness the formal opening of an exhibition of paintings at Melbourne Gunn Art Gallery.

Mr. Robinson was responding to the Prime Minister's Independence Day Message, in which he said his hand of friendship to Tobago had never been retracted.

But Mr. Robinson's remark was in sharp contrast to that made by Assemblyman Dr. J.D. Elder, who

referred to the "hand" extended by the Prime Minister as "a blighted

From HAROLD YEARWOOD

hand," as he explained that "the things that have been done to us could not have been done by a man with a good hand as my hand."

The function at Fort George on Independence Day was to launch an exhibition of paintings and craft-work, to display the recently acquired silver chalice which is considered a relic of Tobago's historical past, and to open the Tobago Trust.

PNM Tobago Meeting

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

THE TOBAGO House of Assembly sees itself as a Government with its own Prime Minister and Ministers and Cabinet. Because of this, there is an orchestrated political move to get the Minister responsible for Tobago Affairs removed so there could be a free hand by the Chairman of the Assembly.

This was stated yesterday by PNM Assemblyman Stanford Callender at the PNM's annual constituency conference in Tobago.

The conference was held at the Tobago Institute of Education.

Mr Callender said the PNM approach to the situation

was one of concern, love and continued interest in the total development of Tobago and the welfare of the Unitary State of Trinidad and Tobago.

DAC PLATFORM

Tabling the Tobago Legislative group's report, Mr Callender observed that while the Tobago House of Assembly was designed to enable the people of Tobago to manage their affairs and to participate more fully in the shaping of their destiny, it was quite clear that the DAC-controlled Assembly was not prepared to allow the full participation of the people of Tobago.

He said this was very noticeable in the employment practices. He charged that the sittings of the House were being used as a DAC platform where in the absence of proper standing orders, things were allowed to go the way of the party in power.

There were problems with the administration of the Tobago House of Assembly Act.

Most of the objections by the DAC members of the Assembly were politically motivated, he said, based on their desire for the DAC to have total control.

The Secretary, of the Constituency Group, Mrs Lydia Paul, noted that the constituency praised Government for selecting a Senator for Tobago, but it was the consensus that the Senator should be given greater responsibilities so that his presence could be felt in Tobago.

The Secretary charged that in an effort to frustrate PNM members, they and their children were refused employment by other "controlling interests."

This prompted Mr Linsell Alleyne from Charlotteville, to call for a Government probe into the functions of DEWD in Tobago.

CSO: 3025/466

GOVERNMENT URGES UNIONS TO FORGO WAGE HIKES FOR JOB SECURITY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 25 Aug 82 p 8

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Tuesday, (CANA) — With unemployment on the rise and the world recession now beginning to bite locally, the Trinidad and Tobago Government has urged trade unions here to consider sacrificing high pay increases for the job security of their members.

"That is the fundamental question that faces the labour movement at this time, and I urge all trade union leaders in the country to give serious thought to it," Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Patrick Manning told a political branch meeting in south Trinidad at the weekend.

"The country cannot afford otherwise. We have seen the examples of what is taking place elsewhere. Our trade union leaders must sit down and give serious consideration to where they go from here, and where the country goes," the Minister stated.

Mr. Manning added: "Recession is just beginning to hit this country, and all the energy-based industries would be affected because they had to depend on America for markets, and if there was recession in America then these industries would be adversely affected."

The Minister's comments came against the backdrop of falling revenue from the key petroleum sector and continuing demands for sub-

stantial pay increases by the trade union movement. One union recently submitted demands for pay rises of 200 per cent for power company staffers, but has since lowered this to 80 per cent.

Trinidad and Tobago is the Commonwealth Caribbean's only exporter of oil, which accounts for 90 per cent of all exports here.

"Look around and you will notice that unemployment is on the rise. What is the position as Trinidad and Tobago is about to go into recession. The public debt is virtually zero, we are in a very good position there. But we will be called upon to make sacrifices, because the cash inflow will not be as great as it was in the past," Manning went on.

He suggested the people of Trinidad and Tobago learn from what was happening in other Caribbean countries which had no petroleum industry and had to face the high prices in the International market, coupled with the recession that was making it hard for them to find sales for their products.

"If they cannot afford petroleum," he suggested, "it looks as though they will have to go back to coal and wood. The implications of that are that in place of the gas range and electric stove they have to go back to the coal pot."

EDITORIAL CASTIGATES UNIONS FOR IRRESPONSIBILITY ON WAGES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Aug 82 p 8

[Text] DO TRADE unions and their leaders in our country recognise any responsibility at all on their part towards the development of the nation, the growth of its economy and the progress of our society as a whole?

Or do they simply see themselves as a kind of primitive "gimme gimme" weapon aimed at gouging out the most from employers regardless of the cost and by whatever means?

At this stage of our development and having regard to the co-operative role and intelligent conduct of trade unions in other parts of the free world we feel we ought not to be asking this question.

We would have thought that the thinking and philosophy of the Trade Union movement in Trinidad and Tobago would have advanced with the times, that its leaders would have learned vital lessons from the constructive contribution of labour in the rapidly developing countries, where strikes, dislocations, confrontations, demonstrations, go-slows and other forms of industrial action are recognised as self-defeating, counter-productive and inimical to the national good.

But the question is now forced upon us by the almost bizarre situation that has developed in the national electricity supply and by the equally weird statements issuing from the mouths of trade union leaders.

For example, listen to Mr. George Weekes, leader of the OWTU in his condemnation of employers:

"Look around at all the boards of management and see if you see any workers represented. Why are they making workers the scapegoats for what is happening in the economy?"

It is sad that after more than a quarter century as a trade union leader Mr. Weekes has apparently not yet understood the vital input that labour makes in the national quest for economic development. Mr. Weekes still seems ignorant of a fundamental principle of economics — that the skill, enthusiasm, loyalty, productivity and prudence of workers in a company, service or state can make the difference between success or failure.

Workers cannot put in less and demand more and expect the enterprise that employs them to survive, far less thrive.

If, in fact, the strength of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago is now being sapped by inflation, it is for this very reason that labour must take part of the blame — its declining productivity versus outrageous wage demands.

The frightening thing is that trade union leaders in our country appear to recognise no obligation or capacity on their part to help or co-operate in efforts to curb the vicious spiral of inflation.

That is why we hear no exhortation for increased productivity coming from their lips, no messages or urgings to labour that we must do better.

With the country's economy feeling the adverse effects of global recession, particularly a decline in the petroleum sector, the time

has come for conservation, restraint and review. This is, in fact, the very worst of times for anyone to feed the revolution of rising expectations in our country. We would be riding for a terrible fall.

The problem with labour in our country is that we have had it so good for so long.

CSO: 3025/465

UNION COMPLAINS TO POLICE COMMISSIONER OF HARASSMENT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 26 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Wednesday, (CANA) — The Communication Workers Trade Union (CWU) here says it has written to Trinidad and Tobago's Police Commissioner Randolph Burroughs complaining about alleged police harassment of striking employees on the picket line at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Port of Spain.

In a letter, the union stated that the hotel workers, who have been on a "legal" strike since last Friday, were being constantly harassed by one particular constable.

It said in part: "While all the other policemen stayed closer to the hotel, this particular policeman spent his time within three feet of the striking workers.

"Now and again he would walk through the picket line. It was observed that he would single out one particular worker for harassment," the

union said.

The letter accused the department of using a police squad to help bring "scabs" to work at the hotel.

It further complained that since 1979, the Commissioner was asked to investigate alleged acts of police brutality on a picket line in Port of Spain, but said to date there had been no response on that matter.

"You committed yourself to carry out an investigation. Your apparent failure to act has perhaps been interpreted by certain policemen as a licence to continue such action against striking workers, the letter added.

"Up to late yesterday, Mr. Burroughs said he had not received a letter from the CWU. "I would certainly go into the matter if there were complaints of police harassment on the picket line," he stated.

CSO: 3025/476

WEEKES CALLS TTEC TROUBLE DELIBERATE TRY TO BLAME WORKERS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Aug 82 p 7

[Article by Mikey Mahabir]

[Text]

THE MANAGEMENT of Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) has been accused of deliberately creating a situation to blame the electricity workers for what is currently taking place in the country as regards supply of power to the nation.

"And they are doing that for political reasons, not only against the workers and the OWTU but against the national interest" said George Weekes, president general of the Union.

Mr Weekes said that the Union is at the moment preparing a document outlining the problems that the workers have been reporting to management on the question of defective poles, mal-functioning of transformers, lack of safety tools and equipment generally.

"And that is to show beyond doubt that it is a managerial problem at TTEC which is causing the breakdown of supplies throughout the country," he stated.

The OWTU held yet another public meeting at Fyzabad on Wednesday evening and brought the people of the area up-to-date with the situation in the supply of electricity.

Mr Weekes said that management has qualified people and pointed out that they could spend millions of dollars to have enough generation to supply the country up to the year 2000 with electricity, yet they

are failing to have the foresight or to win the Government's approval for money to be spent on the transmission areas.

He claimed that TTEC has a shortage of transformers right now. Certain areas in Toco are without electricity because there are no transformers right now. Certain areas in Toco are without electricity because there are no transformers to be replaced burnt out ones.

DANGEROUS

They are now trying to repair a burnt-out transformer at Arima and until those repairs are affected the people will have to continue to suffer for supplies.

Mr. Weekes pointed out that in the Fyzabad district there are many poles which need urgent replacement. Some say that it is cheaper to replace a fallen pole than to take down one which is hanging dangerously and have it replaced through preventative maintenance and that information was allegedly given out by TTEC, it was pointed out.

And all these things are happening because of inefficiency in management

aimed at setting the country backward resulting in the blame being placed on the shoulders of the workers, the OWTU and the Trade Union movement, the OWTU leader stated.

He said that the Union is moving to educate the public because management is not doing so. How the workers are working under alleged inhumane conditions and how they have to work under dangerous conditions in order to ensure electricity reaches the public, are some of the areas the Union will outline in its document.

The question of the movement of trucks and even when a vehicle stands in a certain area for a particular period needs to be fully explained.

Those inefficiencies on the part of management are to his mind no accident.

"They are part of a well calculated plan from powerful forces in the country aimed at destabilising the country and putting the blame on others while the real culprits are rewarded not only financially but through awards for their disservice to the country," Mr Weekes stated.

MINISTER RULES OUT POSSIBILITY OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION AT TTEC

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

WORKERS at Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (TTEC) cannot take strike action, nor can the management institute a lockout of workers under any conditions at all, as TTEC is an essential service.

This point has been made by the Ministry of Labour in correcting a story which appeared in the "Guardian" on Tuesday, which stated that after the end of the conciliation period at the Ministry, either party could take industrial action.

A Ministry spokesman said yesterday that industrial action of any type is prohibited in an essential service, whether it is a strike, lockout or any other action.

If matters cannot be resolved by conciliation at the Ministry of Labour, then by law the matter has to be referred to the Industrial Court for a determination.

TTEC and its workers, represented by the Oilfields

Workers Trade Union (OWTU), have been locked in negotiations for some weeks now. Another meeting at the Ministry of Labour was scheduled to start yesterday evening, with the company and union on 40 per cent and 90 per cent for three years respectively.

By today the parties are expected to hold further discussions on cost items such as pensions and wages.

At the meeting on Monday, some seven items were settled, including dirty work money, leave of absence for workers selected to take part in national and international sporting or cultural events, and time off with pay for negotiations or handling grievances.

CSO: 3025/465

CARONI ACCUSED OF TRYING TO SCALE DOWN SUGAR INDUSTRY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 28 Aug 82 p 7

[Text]

SAM MAHARAJ, general secretary of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union has accused State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited of deliberately attempting to scale down the sugar industry.

"And the company is attempting to do that by reducing the acreage of lands under sugar cultivation" he stated.

Mr. Maharaj met with the company last week to get a clarification concerning the laying off of hundreds of cultivation workers who were engaged in the planting programme.

He said the company explained that the workers laid off had completed planting the fields and it was a normal practice to

adopt such a course after the fields were planted.

The workers retained were to complete planting other areas.

Mr. Maharaj said that he observed the planting exercise was completed earlier than usual and that was because the company cut down on the acreage with a view to scaling down the sugar industry.

He said that the Union is concerned about the unemployment problems facing the country and in particular the sugar industry.

However, the Union wants to see diversification into other areas so that those laid off in sugar will be absorbed elsewhere.

CSO: 3025/465

PAPER BLASTS GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AS UNFAIR

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 29 Aug 82 p 3

[Excerpts]

THE customer is always wrong. This is the unwritten management policy of our Government. For instance, it preaches freedom but denies radio and TV licences. Critics are ostracised as traitors. The common man feels the scourges of collapsed utilities. And the public at large is always punished unfairly for deeds it did not commit or sanction.

As far as vicarious punishment is concerned, the "customer"/citizen is about to get it in the neck

because of Government's inefficiencies and wasteful expenditure. In the equation of falling revenues and rising expenditure, fuelled to a large measure by enormous losses by state corporations and government-to-government ventures, it is the tiny "customer" who is called upon to shoulder the burden by reducing overseas travel. So far, only the civil service and its satellites have been skewered, but the portents and hints are unmistakable — the general public is next.

And here is the fatuous rationale — we are expected to believe that if we cut down our overseas travel bill, then the resulting savings will somehow refinance the Treasury and bring about a surplus of expenditure over income! Even with stricter consumer durable allowances, this is not only spurious thinking, but wholesale, utter economic rubbish!

Once again, it is convenient to blame the public for losses generated and accelerated by the Government; and for the travelling members of our society to take the brunt of an economic assault created by wanton Government mis-expenditure.

In the first place, if the Government had tried all the means at its disposal to spend wisely, to correct waste, corruption and loss, then the public would be more sympathetic to helping out. But why should we be asked to feel the keenest edge of the pinch when the Government makes only cosmetic attempts to stanch its own financial haemorrhage?

DEWD NIGHTMARE

Let us ask some questions. When, if ever, will DEWD be converted into an efficient organisation? When will we see, on an annualised basis, a breakdown of salaries vs actual time spent on the job? We all know what the result will look like — a staggering gap between what is paid for and what is actually obtained. If logic is to be served, the first step towards correction is to nail down precisely the extent of the waste over the years; followed by a careful identification of the causes of that waste. The third step must be the action that everyone knows must be taken...except the Government!

This column has never stated that DEWD must be abandoned. We do not think it is an ideal solution for mobilising initiative and enterprise, but bearing in mind that we have a paternalistic society where large numbers tend to sit and wait for the hand-out or for the messianic guidance, then we have to bear with it and permit our people to get some form of economic direction. So be it. Let us have our DEWD programme, but as everyone has said, let it work.

The Government could not be serious about permitting the mismanagement and the loafing and the doltish activity in DEWD which is costing the country tens of millions of dollars to continue unabated, while hard-working taxpayers are told that they must drastically cut their travel. That the people who make a contribution must cut back their overseas expenditure while DEWD can sit at home, underproducing and indifferent. This is not only immoral, it is a sinful suggestion that genuine workers must carry a balance-of-payments burden, and also carry DEWD.

We don't wish to get into endless illustrations because, as everyone knows, the examples of waste and corruption are endless. But looking at just a few other prominent ones, may we ask how soon Dr. Julien and his cohorts intend lowering the annual losses at ISCOTT from \$800 million every 12 months? Has any mention been made about ISCOTT being told to cut back?

Why us, oh Lord?

Why is it convenient for BWIA and PTSC to lose more than a \$100 million each year, yet it is wrong for the public to want to travel? And as we all know, the lack of facilities, especially in Trinidad, are large-

ly a function of the excessive, capital-sapping taxation by Government which leaves insufficient amounts of money for venture capital into hotels and recreational facilities. The result is that we still have to change behind coconut trees, and do with out as little as a sandwich on Mayaro beach.

Just think of it — on the one hand we are taxed to absolute bleeding death and on the other, using what money is left over, we are told we must not spend a percentage overseas because we have to contribute to the common good! This translates into subsidies for wasteful, ailing government companies, and jobs for the boys. No, this could not be right!

The next stage without a doubt is the Budget, and this column is willing to take the Prime Minister a bet that not only will he leave the Government sources of waste and inefficiency intact, barring one or two bits of tokenism, but he is going to come down on

other means of punishing the public. Watch out for higher taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and anything that is supposed to give pleasure. In other words, this society must enjoy itself because being a curious brand of puritan, our leaders conveniently regard any form of enjoyment is obviously sinful.

So the up-coming Budget is going to penalise anything that looks enjoyable. Of course, the blind eye will be turned towards the biggest enjoyments of all, namely the rakings-in and rippings-off that go on in and around Government corporations. ISCOTT will continue wasting \$800 million per year, BWIA will fly ever into the red, Air Jamaica will fly rings around it economically and otherwise, PTSC will continue calling for more than \$100 million per annum, Caroni will continue running up its annual millions of dollars of losses, DEWD will remain a disaster, etc., etc., etc. And devaluation is a looming possibility. Don't say that we didn't tell you.

CSO: 3025/465

BRIEFS

NEW VENEZUELAN ENVOY--The Ministry of External Affairs has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Amry Tournon Lugo, 41 as Venezuela's Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Tournon Lugo is expected in Port-of-Spain shortly to present his credentials to President Ellis Clarke. He last served as Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Caracas. The Ambassador-designate succeeds Dr. Ignacio Silva Sucre who resigned from the Foreign Service last July to go into private business. Mr. Tournon Lugo studied law in Caracas and Spain. He is a career diplomat, married and has five children. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 27 Aug 82 p 1]

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